

HOME NEWS

ITV technicians to meet as all but two channels go blank

By a Staff Reporter

Only two independent television stations, Westward and Channel, were broadcasting yesterday as the dispute with members of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians (ACTT) entered its fourth day. The union is to meet today to discuss the situation and its claim for back pay of £231 a head.

Yesterday all but three of the 17 independent television companies, including ITN, carried out their threat to enforce a lockout of ACTT members after their three-day strike in support of the pay claim ended at 6 am.

Only technicians employed by Westward, Tyne Tees and London Weekend were allowed to come in to work. They had voted to ignore their union's strike call. Tyne Tees, which had broadcast local programmes over the weekend, found it impossible to run a service without material from the network, however, and joined the lockout. Viewers in London were left with blank screens as Thames Television took over from the weekend service.

Westward hopes to continue with local broadcasts today and Channel is not involved in the dispute.

The Independent Television Companies Association (ITCA) are hoping that today's ACTT meeting will show up what they believe to be lack of enthusiasm for the back-pay claim. ITCA have said they will operate a lockout until the claim is dropped.

Mr Alan Sapper, general secretary of the ACTT, said that the lockout was in breach of the Television Act, which placed an obligation on the independent Broadcasting Authority to serve the public, and that the companies were breaking their contracts with the IBA by not providing a service.

The ITCA replied that if Mr Sapper's argument that failure to provide a service to the public was illegal held true for a lockout, then it must hold true for a strike. The IBA declined to comment on Mr Sapper's argument. It said the dispute involved the companies and their staff and the IBA could not intervene.

Section 1(3) of the Television Act, 1973, states that "programme contractors", under contract to the IBA, have "the right and duty" to provide programmes to be broadcast by the authority.

MP fears that ministers' rooms may be 'bugged'

Mr MP gave a warning yesterday of a danger that "sensitive" rooms used by Cabinet ministers in the House of Commons might be "bugged" with recording devices.

Mr Robin Corbett, Labour member for Hemel Hempstead, is to ask Mr Short, Leader of the House, when and how often checks are made to ensure the electronic security of these rooms, where confidential government business is discussed.

Mr Corbett said: "It looks as if, behind the back of the Home Secretary, who is the only man who can legally authorize wire-tapping, there is an army of unofficial home secretaries going out buying equipment to listen in on other people's telephone calls. Apart from the issue of privacy, the scope here for industrial, commercial and personal blackmail is absolutely frightening."

Mr Corbett added: "I wonder how many boardrooms, Mr Short, are also on Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, to control and ban, if necessary, the manufacture and sale of devices which could be used for this purpose."

He and another Labour MP, Mr Thomas Torney (Bradford, South), are also to call on Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, to control and ban, if necessary, the manufacture and sale of devices which could be used for this purpose.

The Security Systems and Equipment Exhibition opens in London next week and Mr Torney commented: "American experts on anti-bugging devices apparently find it profitable to come to this exhibition to display their wares."

"This, to me, only confirms what I have thought for a long time that there is a big increase in this sort of activity and that we are in danger of catching up with the Americans."

Inquiry into complaints of 'violence by police'

From Our Correspondent Glasgow

The Chief Constable of Strathclyde police region, Mr David McNee, said yesterday that he had decided to set up an inquiry into complaints that police used unnecessary violence against left-wing demonstrators who tried to prevent a National Front meeting from taking place in Glasgow on Saturday.

"The police have nothing to hide", he said.

The investigation is to be carried out by Mr John Nicol, Assistant Chief Constable of Grampian police, who will start work at once.

Sixty-five people, including leading Scottish trade unionists, were arrested and charged on Saturday. Mr McNee said 18 police officers had received medical or hospital treatment. The number of demonstrators injured was not known.

A small number of complaints had been made, and whether they were from members of the public or councillors or MPs they would be thoroughly investigated.

Only about 12 people attended the National Front meeting. Commenting on that, Mr McNee said: "As I look fairly and professionally at the smallest of one of the groups involved against the numbers on the other side, I cannot but be concerned about the outcome of Saturday night if the police had not acted."

The police have no right to decide to whom a public place should be let. This is a matter for the district council, and the police were not consulted. The police do, however, have a duty to preserve peace in our democratic system, where all men have a right to assembly.

If this right is challenged and threatened in an organized manner by anyone, then the police have a clear duty to take all reasonable action to preserve the people's rights, whatever they may be. In handling difficult situations there is no place for compromise or selectivity and certainly police action should be consistent.

Caravan rates protest
Mr David Marquand, Labour MP for Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, is calling for an inquiry by Mr Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, into the Inland Revenue's decision to levy rates on 22,000 holiday caravans on the Lincolnshire coast, where many of Mr Marquand's constituents have caravans.



Village children in Wellow, Nottinghamshire, dancing yesterday for the last time around their wooden Maypole. It is to be replaced with a steel pole because of rot.

Demolition threat to Victorian steel pier

From John Charters Bangor, North Wales

The 79-year-old Bangor pier, which juts nearly halfway across the Menai Strait and is regarded by experts as a particularly fine example of Victorian structural steelwork, seems doomed to demolition.

For about five years the fate of the pier, of mixed cast-iron, wrought-iron and steel construction, has hung in the balance. Originally designed by Mr John Webster, it is 1,550ft long, 24ft wide, and surrounded by miniature onion domes. In the heyday of steamer excursions from Liverpool and Llandudno up the Menai Strait, it was a favourite landing place.

The structure was judged unsafe several years ago, and the question whether to restore or demolish it has exercised financial minds on the former Bangor council and the new Arfon council ever since. Earlier this year there were hopes that the pier would be restored, but the Arfon council has now decided to demolish it. The pier is owned by the Historic Buildings Council, which is able to provide sufficient funds for restoration, particularly as this is European Architectural Heritage Year.

It is estimated, however, that the cost would be well over £100,000, and Arfon council's development and amenities committee has reluctantly decided that such a sum cannot be raised without an undue burden being placed on local taxpayers. It has recommended the council to approve a demolition plan at its meeting next Monday.

The demise of the pier is, according to Mr Vernon Hughes, of the Civic Trust for Wales, largely due to the fact that it was built as the late Victorian pier, when steel was coming into fashion among structural engineers who did not understand its susceptibility to corrosion.

The main columns of the pier were made of cast iron, in cross ties of wrought-iron, and the trusses of steel, which has rusted disastrously.

Mr Hughes said: "In fairness to the local authority, the committee members recommended demolishing it. It was indeed. It is particularly sad because there are very few traditional piers left in the Welsh region, and when this one goes Bangor will lose its main link with the sea."

The pier has been nearly cut in half by a coaster during a storm at the turn of the century, may not finally succumb without a legal tussle. According to an official of Arfon council, it was built under a special parliamentary Act, so another Act may have to be passed before it can be demolished.

Vietnam orphans' centre sought

By Diana Geddes

Project Vietnam Orphans, which was responsible for bringing in 54 of the Vietnamese orphans on the flight organized by the Daily Mail from Saigon seven weeks ago, has asked Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, to allow it to set up a refugee centre for the children where they can be looked after until they are adopted by British parents.

Mr Jenkins replied that the Government would not consider returning any of the children unless advised by those concerned with their care that it was in the children's interests. No reply has been received yet to the PVO request that it be allowed to set up a refugee reception centre. A large house in Surrey has been found for the centre and the PVO has raised about half the £60,000 needed.

The Rev Patrick Ash, vicar of the PVO, said yesterday that while some of the orphans had already been placed in their adoptive homes, the processing of adoption papers and the checking of families for the others could take up to a year.

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Redcar, asking for an assurance that no child brought by the PVO with the consent of the former South Vietnamese Government for adoption by British parents would be returned.

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The PVO felt it would be better for the children to be looked after all together in a PVO home, where they could

be prepared for their English adoptive families, rather than remain with the orphans who were due to go back to Vietnam and who were being kept in a Vietnamese atmosphere by the Ockenden Venture.

Seventeen of the 54 PVO orphans have already been placed, three have died, 15 are in two Ockenden Venture homes and the remaining 19 are still in hospital.

Miss Joyce Pearce, chairman of the Ockenden Venture, said yesterday that she did not see any necessity for a separate PVO refugee reception centre. She felt it might be disturbing for the children, having not used to one place, to be moved to another.

The PVO children were being taught English and were gradually learning to eat English food, she said. Some of the older ones would be going to school. Many were being visited and taken out by their prospective adoptive parents. There was no question of keeping the children in a Vietnamese culture.

Nationalization plans will be dropped—MP

The Government intends to drop its plans to nationalize the shipbuilding and aircraft industries, a Conservative MP claimed yesterday.

Mr Geoffrey Peattie, whose Chertsey and Walton constituency includes the British Aircraft Corporation factory at Weybridge, Surrey, said pressure of parliamentary business would be given as the main reason for dropping the Aircraft and Shipping Industries Bill. But there would be other major reasons.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is now resisting a proposal which would cost about £600m that we do not have, and, as if this was not enough, the Prime Minister may well have other plans for the Bill's sponsor, Mr Benn, after the referendum.

Mr Peattie, who said that within the industry there was increasing hostility to nationalization, is to ask Mr Benn to give a timetable for the implementation of the Government's plans. He will be putting this question, the first of the day, on June 9.

Kirk is told ministers may look for better paid jobs

From Our Correspondent Edinburgh

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was given a warning yesterday of the danger of ministers leaving to seek better paid jobs by the Rev Thomas Balfour, Convener of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, when he presented its report in Edinburgh today.

He said: "The real danger to the church, and to Scotland, is not that ministers will go on strike, but that sufficient numbers will not be recruited to maintain their strength, and that growing numbers may seek more lucrative employment in the interests of their wives and families."

One reason why young men do not offer themselves for the ministry is that, in all conscience, they cannot afford to submit those whom they love to undue financial strain, however much they might be willing to suffer it themselves."

Mr Balfour said the committee had long since given up hope of ever making ministers wealthy, but it had a high call.

ing to ensure that at least they did not become steadily poorer. Ministers, he said, would always tend to lag behind in incomes, but he believed the church would always want to maintain them well enough to ensure that they could live in modest comfort.

The committee's report said that a minister's minimum stipend for 1975 would be £2,352 and a manse.

Later, the Rev Professor Robert Wilson, convener of the United Kingdom's Readjustment Committee, told the assembly that over the next 10 years the Kirk was likely to lose about 100 ministers a year through death and retirement, while only about half that number of students would be coming forward to replace them.

The one man, one parish system, he said, had much to commend it, but under modern conditions it was no longer possible everywhere. A rethinking of the Kirk's requirements was needed and a recognition of its real manpower potential, not only in terms of full-time ministers but also of other agencies, such as lay readers.

Gatecrashers sink family's houseboat home

From Our Correspondent Nottingham

A family were homeless yesterday after a houseboat party. There were so many gatecrashers that the extra weight caused the boat to spring leaks.

Despite four hours of baling by firemen, the boat, the Peter May, sank at its moorings in a canal off the river Trent at Beeston Lock, Nottingham, in the early hours.

Mr Michael Reid, aged 24, storeman, said yesterday: "We invited 30 to 40 people. All the 40 arrived, then about 15 gatecrashers came on board. They all seemed to pack together at the stern."

"The boat could not take the weight, and the boards collapsed. People thought I was joking when I shouted that we were sinking. As the water poured in, everyone went wild. They all got off safely. Yesterday firemen were trying to salvage the boat from the canal bottom. Mr Reid, with his wife and baby son, were staying with relatives."

Mr Heath returns

Mr Edward Heath returned to London by air from America yesterday, after making speeches in Washington.

Hebrew lesson that helps Wales to learn Welsh

From Trevor Fishlock Cardiff

Business and professional men in Wales are being given time off work to attend concentrated three-month courses in the Welsh language costing £70.

Bank and building society employees, administrators and journalists are spending three hours every morning "immersed" in Welsh. For nearly all of them the language has frankly economic value: it will help them to do their jobs better and improve their chances of promotion.

The courses, run by the extramural department of the University of Wales, are a development of the Uplun method of language teaching, which has grown rapidly in Wales since the autumn of 1973. Uplun is a Hebrew word and the technique was developed in Israel as a matter of urgency soon after the state was founded and large numbers of people, speaking many languages, started to emigrate there.

In Wales the Welsh language has for years been among the most popular subjects at evening classes, and although people have made reasonable progress through weekly sessions, many teachers and pupils felt that the road to fluency was too long. The first Uplun course started

in Cardiff with 10 people paying £5 for 100 hours, two hours a night five nights a week, deep in conversation with four volunteer teachers. Today there are courses all over Wales, run by local authorities, the university and voluntary groups, and although the cost has doubled since then, the result is a special course for business people lasts 200 hours, three hours every morning for 13 weeks.

Mr Christopher Rees, language research officer to the university, who has been involved in Uplun from the beginning, said: "The results are surprisingly good. Naturally, people learn at different rates and I would say that four out of 10 become competent after 100 hours; the rest, the men, learn with English and hold their own socially with Welsh speakers. There is a shortage of certain kinds of skilled people in the Welsh areas and employers recognize that if they are to provide the kind of service their customers want, more of their employees will need Welsh."

The Midland Bank recently paid for two of its employees to take the 200-hour course. Mr Emrys Evans, the bank's South Wales director, was very pleased with the result. The men achieved a good standard of fluency, he said, and one was promoted immediately to a post in a Welsh-speaking area.

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Shoppers' power for co-op members urged in report

A drastic reorganization of the co-operative movement to give more power to shoppers is urged in a report to the movement's congress, which opened in Edinburgh yesterday.

The report, produced by a working party, will cause controversy among the 900 delegates. It says the movement has allowed its lay leadership to be reduced to a "perilous if not desperate state".

Control has been allowed to rest in the hands of an unrepresentative few, often reelected almost automatically and "too heavily seeded with the societies' own employees". There is a "potentially dangerous" relationship between the professional

managers and the lay members, the report says, the managers sometimes arguing that laymen are a "major liability" to decision-making, and the laymen sometimes claiming that managers are hostile to the idea of lay leadership.

The working party says every society should set up an "education" or "member relations" committee, thus creating 1,100 new elected posts, and central "members councils" should be established.

At local level, occasional "shop meetings" of members using a particular store are needed, as well as regular meetings of small "shop groups". "When the need is urgent", the report says, "the action must be radical".

Business News, page 15

Gelnite found by children

More than 180 sticks of gelnite were found by children playing in a churchyard near the Irish border in Burt, Co Donegal, yesterday.

The gelnite was packed in a milk churn. Cortex fuse was also discovered. Irish army experts made the materials safe.

The police want to hear from anyone who may have given the sticks a lift away from the scene.

They issued a description of a man they are seeking: aged about 28, five feet four inches tall, with mousey brown hair, a small moustache and beard, and hazel eyes.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded

Winds NE, moderate or fresh; max temp 15°C (59°F).

East Angles, E. England: Dry, rather cloudy at times, but sunny intervals developing; wind NE, moderate, but fresh on coasts at first; max temp 15°C (59°F), but cool on coasts.

Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, N. Ireland: Dry, sunny periods; wind NE, light or moderate; max temp 16°C (61°F).

NE Scotland, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Rather cloudy with drizzle in places, but sunny intervals developing inland; wind NE, light or moderate; max temp 11°C (52°F), but cooler on coasts.

Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll-NW Scotland: Dry, sunny periods; wind E, light; max temp 14°C (57°F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy with drizzle at first, sunny intervals; wind variable, light; max temp 9°C (48°F).

Quick look for tomorrow and Thursday: Little change.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: C, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

London: 12.5, 13.5, 14.5, 15.5, 16.5, 17.5, 18.5, 19.5, 20.5, 21.5, 22.5, 23.5, 24.5, 25.5, 26.5, 27.5, 28.5, 29.5, 30.5, 31.5, 32.5, 33.5, 34.5, 35.5, 36.5, 37.5, 38.5, 39.5, 40.5, 41.5, 42.5, 43.5, 44.5, 45.5, 46.5, 47.5, 48.5, 49.5, 50.5, 51.5, 52.5, 53.5, 54.5, 55.5, 56.5, 57.5, 58.5, 59.5, 60.5, 61.5, 62.5, 63.5, 64.5, 65.5, 66.5, 67.5, 68.5, 69.5, 70.5, 71.5, 72.5, 73.5, 74.5, 75.5, 76.5, 77.5, 78.5, 79.5, 80.5, 81.5, 82.5, 83.5, 84.5, 85.5, 86.5, 87.5, 88.5, 89.5, 90.5, 91.5, 92.5, 93.5, 94.5, 95.5, 96.5, 97.5, 98.5, 99.5, 100.5, 101.5, 102.5, 103.5, 104.5, 105.5, 106.5, 107.5, 108.5, 109.5, 110.5, 111.5, 112.5, 113.5, 114.5, 115.5, 116.5, 117.5, 118.5, 119.5, 120.5, 121.5, 122.5, 123.5, 124.5, 125.5, 126.5, 127.5, 128.5, 129.5, 130.5, 131.5, 132.5, 133.5, 134.5, 135.5, 136.5, 137.5, 138.5, 139.5, 140.5, 141.5, 142.5, 143.5, 144.5, 145.5, 146.5, 147.5, 148.5, 149.5, 150.5, 151.5, 152.5, 153.5, 154.5, 155.5, 156.5, 157.5, 158.5, 159.5, 160.5, 161.5, 162.5, 163.5, 164.5, 165.5, 166.5, 167.5, 168.5, 169.5, 170.5, 171.5, 172.5, 173.5, 174.5, 175.5, 176.5, 177.5, 178.5, 179.5, 180.5, 181.5, 182.5, 183.5, 184.5, 185.5, 186.5, 187.5, 188.5, 189.5, 190.5, 191.5, 192.5, 193.5, 194.5, 195.5, 196.5, 197.5, 198.5, 199.5, 200.5, 201.5, 202.5, 203.5, 204.5, 205.5, 206.5, 207.5, 208.5, 209.5, 210.5, 211.5, 212.5, 213.5, 214.5, 215.5, 216.5, 217.5, 218.5, 219.5, 220.5, 221.5, 222.5, 223.5, 224.5, 225.5, 226.5, 227.5, 228.5, 229.5, 230.5, 231.5, 232.5, 233.5, 234.5, 235.5, 236.5, 237.5, 238.5, 239.5, 240.5, 241.5, 242.5, 243.5, 244.5, 245.5, 246.5, 247.5, 248.5, 249.5, 250.5, 251.5, 252.5, 253.5, 254.5, 255.5, 256.5, 257.5, 258.5, 259.5, 260.5, 261.5, 262.5, 263.5, 264.5, 265.5, 266.5, 267.5, 268.5, 269.5, 270.5, 271.5, 272.5, 273.5, 274.5, 275.5, 276.5, 277.5, 278.5, 279.5, 280.5, 281.5, 282.5, 283.5, 284.5, 285.5, 286.5, 287.5, 288.5, 289.5, 290.5, 291.5, 292.5, 293.5, 294.5, 295.5, 296.5, 297.5, 298.5, 299.5, 300.5, 301.5, 302.5, 303.5, 304.5, 305.5, 306.5, 307.5, 308.5, 309.5, 310.5, 311.5, 312.5, 313.5, 314.5, 315.5, 316.5, 317.5, 318.5, 319.5, 320.5, 321.5, 322.5, 323.5, 324.5, 325.5, 326.5, 327.5, 328.5, 329.5, 330.5, 331.5, 332.5, 333.5, 334.5, 335.5, 336.5, 337.5, 338.5, 339.5, 340.5, 341.5, 342.5, 343.5, 344.5, 345.5, 346.5, 347.5, 348.5, 349.5, 350.5, 351.5, 352.5, 353.5, 354.5, 355.5, 356.5, 357.5, 358.5, 359.5, 360.5, 361.5, 362.5, 363.5, 364.5, 365.5, 366.5, 367.5, 368.5, 369.5, 370.5, 371.5, 372.5, 373.5, 374.5, 375.5, 376.5, 377.5, 378.5, 379.5, 380.5, 381.5, 382.5, 383.5, 384.5, 385.5, 386.5, 387.5, 388.5, 389.5, 390.5, 391.5, 392.5, 393.5, 394.5, 395.5, 396.5, 397.5, 398.5, 399.5, 400.5, 401.5, 402.5, 403.5, 404.5, 405.5, 406.5, 407.5, 408.5, 409.5, 410.5, 411.5, 412.5, 413.5, 414.5, 415.5, 416.5, 417.5, 418.5, 419.5, 420.5, 421.5, 422.5, 423.5, 424.5, 425.5, 426.5, 427.5, 428.5, 429.5, 430.5, 431.5, 432.5, 433.5, 434.5, 435.5, 436.5, 437.5, 438.5, 439.5, 440.5, 441.5, 442.5, 443.5, 444.5, 445.5, 446.5, 447.5, 448.5, 449.5, 450.5, 451.5, 452.5, 453.5, 454.5, 455.5, 456.5, 457.5, 458.5, 459.5, 460.5, 461.5, 462.5, 463.5, 464.5, 465.5, 466.5, 467.5, 468.5, 469.5, 470.5, 471.5, 472.5, 473.5, 474.5, 475.5, 476.5, 477.5, 478.5, 479.5, 480.5, 481.5, 482.5, 483.5, 484.5, 485.5, 486.5, 487.5, 488.5, 489.5, 490.5, 491.5, 492.5, 493.5, 494.5, 495.5, 496.5, 497.5, 498.5, 499.5, 500.5, 501.5, 502.5, 503.5, 504.5, 505.5, 506.5, 507.5, 508.5, 509.5, 510.5, 511.5, 512.5, 513.5, 514.5, 515.5, 516.5, 517.5, 518.5, 519.5, 520.5, 521.5, 522.5, 523.5, 524.5, 525.5, 526.5, 527.5, 528.5, 529.5, 530.5, 531.5, 532.5, 533.5, 534.5, 535.5, 536.5, 537.5, 538.5, 539.5, 540.5, 541.5, 542.5, 543.5, 544.5, 545.5, 546.5, 547.5, 548.5, 549.5, 550.5, 551.5, 552.5, 553.5, 554.5, 555.5, 556.5, 55



VECO - Industrial Vehicles Corporation -

The new force in the commercial vehicle world

ve great international names from Italy, France and Germany, renowned for their additional quality and advanced technology have joined forces. To form one of the mightiest vehicle manufacturing enterprises in the field of commercial transportation.

Fiat of Turin and Klockner-Humboldt-Deutz of Cologne have united to form the holding company IVECO. This comprises of Fiat Veicoli Industriali (combining the Fiat and OM products), Lancia Veicoli Speciali, Unic-Fiat and Magirus-Deutz.

The Size of IVECO. The new organisation's labour force numbers well over 50,000 employees. The 1974 production figure for vehicles manufactured by the companies represented in the holding company totalled around 110,000. Annual sales are of the order of 1,300 billion lire. The production range starts at 3.5 tonnes and goes up to the maximum weights permitted by ruling legislation. There are 200 basic models and over 600 adaptations including buses and specialist vehicles. Propulsion systems include the water-cooled diesel (Fiat, OM, Unic-Fiat and Lancia) and the air-cooled diesel engines found in the Magirus-Deutz ranges.

The Factories. IVECO has 16 major production plants in Italy, France and Germany.

Italy: Three factories in Turin plus further plants at Brescia, Milan, Cameri, Suzzara and Bolzano.

France: Factories at Trappes, Bourbon-Lancy, Fourchambault and Suresnes.

Germany: Three factories at Ulm and a plant at Mainz.

The Purpose of the IVECO Holding Company

Combined International Expertise

An amalgamation of resources and experience to create a more efficient response to the growing demands of technological progress. And to effectively combat fierce international competition.

Retention of Individuality

The market personality and engineering features of the individual ranges manufactured by the companies forming IVECO will be retained.

Improved Standards of Quality

Combining the engineering and financial capacities of the participating partners to substantially increase product quality.

Comprehensive Vehicle Range

Production programmes will be formulated, aimed at achieving a wide overall manufacturing diversification in all vehicle classes.

Multinational Manufacturing Experience

IVECO can offer a solution to differing engineering, commercial and social problems involved in manufacturing, by utilising its vast nation-wide knowledge of specific requirements and necessities.

Greater Service Facilities

To set up an extensive network of modern service facilities, for all their ranges, to meet the exacting demands of international transport operations.



1974 Production: 55,500 industrial vehicles and buses, 50% of which were exported to 90 countries. The market share of Fiat trucks in Italy was 54%. In Africa, Fiat were the market leaders in the field of heavy trucks.



1974 Production: 28,000 industrial vehicles, 30% of which were exported to various European countries. The market share of OM industrial vehicles in Italy was 40%. The OM range in particular offers an abundant variety of medium and lightweight trucks.



1974 Production: 3,000 special vehicles earmarked for varied civil and military duties (four-wheel drive vehicles, amphibious vehicles etc.).



1974 Production: 10,300 industrial vehicles, 30% of which were exported to other European countries, French speaking Africa and the Middle and Far East. Unic-Fiat held an 18% share of the French heavy vehicle market.



1974 Production: 13,000 industrial vehicles and buses, 60% of which were exported to over 50 countries. The company specialise in the manufacture of building industry four-wheel drive vehicles (25% of the German market) and are European leaders in the field of fire-fighting vehicle manufacture.

HOME NEWS

Nalco threat of action unless pay is raised

By Tim Jones
Labour Staff

The National and Local Government Officers Association is preparing contingency plans for industrial action which will be put to its annual conference in two weeks' time unless the employers make a "realistic offer" when the two sides meet on Friday.

The union wants a flat £10-a-week rise for all 400,000 local government officers and an additional increase of 15 per cent. That would work out at a 35 per cent increase for some of the employees, and would breach the social contract.

Mr John Daly, union side secretary of the negotiating committee in the pay talks and the union's national local government officer, said yesterday that the frustration of his members over delays in pay negotiations could "erupt into industrial action, seriously affecting services to the community."

The union showed last summer that it was becoming more militant when its London members selectively withdrew their services in support of a London weighting allowance.

Mr Daly said: "Local government staff have fallen so far behind other public service groups, particularly the Civil Service, and their salaries have been hit so hard by inflation that the employers are duty bound to make an acceptable offer."

"The settlement last year of 11.3 per cent was swallowed up long ago and our members have been knocked for six by the spiralling cost of living."

Employers, he said, should not make local government staff the scapegoats for government policies and for inflation.

"They have soldiered on through a year of reorganization, taking on extra duties with insufficient resources and manpower."

"They have had to bear the brunt of attacks on rate increases as though they personally were responsible for the increases. Their pay packets have been hit badly and I fear greatly for the morale of a hard-pressed service unless a decent offer that recognizes the true state of affairs is made."

Another of the corporation's tasks might be administering a scheme to redistribute advertising revenue from the richer to the poorer newspapers, and it might also organize a newspaper subsidy to even out the fluctuations in world prices.

One of the principal aims of the corporation should be to engender industrial democracy in the newspaper industry," the TUC says, conceding that there is already a high degree of shop-floor involvement in its day-to-day running.

But the evidence criticizes the "complete lack of trade union involvement in the major, strategic management decisions, and is not one which is conducive to good industrial relations."

The TUC General Council recommends that the National Press Finance Corporation should be run by a supervisory board, half of whose members would be elected directly from trade unions in the industry and the other half appointed by the Government.

"It is important that this (Government appointed) part of the membership does reflect a wide spectrum of public opinion," the TUC insists, voicing the expectation that there should be trade union involvement.

In practice, the TUC's formula appears to mean that the corporation's supervisory board would have an overall majority of printing and other trade unionists and those sympathetic to their outlook.



Clare Francis on her yacht, Robertson's Golly, at Lymington yacht haven yesterday. She is the only woman entrant in the 2,400-mile single-handed race to the Azores and back, starting on June 7.

'Let Government pay teachers'

From Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent
Harrowgate

Head teachers voted yesterday to transfer the whole £2,000m bill for teachers' salaries from ratepayers to the Exchequer. One reason given was that it would prevent the Government from putting the blame for unemployment among teachers and large class sizes on the local authorities.

The National Association of Head Teachers, meeting in Harrogate, also called for a separate salary negotiating committee for head teachers. One headmaster suggested they should be receiving salaries of £11,000 a year.

A motion that head teachers should withdraw from supervising school meals from next January was, however, defeated. Some delegates said that mid-day supervision was placing a heavy additional burden on the hard-pressed head teacher. It was causing a variety of ills, ranging from indigestion to heart failure.

One head teacher spoke of hell being a school lunch on a wet, rainy day and another said they were sitting on top of a volcano which would erupt as soon as the child became seriously injured.

The most important motion passed was: Because of the increasing financial burdens

involved, the payment of teachers' salaries should be undertaken by central government, while delegating to local authorities the employment and control of teachers.

Mr Michael Brighouse, an executive member, said if this was done the Government would no longer have the excuse that it was the local authorities who were responsible if they could not take up their quota of teachers.

Local authorities, being asked each year to cut their estimates, were left with no choice but to employ teachers. That led to bigger classes at the same time as the Government was telling the country that teachers were going to be unemployed.

Mr Brighouse gave a warning that illiteracy would increase. The nation would ignore the education of one generation of schoolchildren at its peril.

He said: "If the Government really wants to have unemployed teachers with children in large classes in order that the nationalized industries, nationalized services, and so on, can be subsidized, let it say so in the House of Commons, where we will hear its arguments."

Mr D. C. Wainwright, of Swindon, warned that the education of the disaster that might happen if the bill for teachers' salaries was taken away from local authorities. He said:

"When the cold wind of cash shortages blows through the country there are those in Whitehall who would make sure that the figures make the first to feel the freeze."

The conference later voted for special small schools to be set up for seriously disruptive pupils. It was suggested that buildings used as "independent free schools" could be more profitably used for that purpose.

Mr C. D. Holland, headmaster of Vauxhall junior school, London, proposing the motion, said normal teaching was being disrupted by the deliberate destruction of chairs, windows, doors and sanitary fittings. He had heard of one instance where a gang of youths attacked a boy and scratched his head with a steel pointed comb.

Before long, he said, children would be removed from the schools by their parents and the staff would also feel that they could no longer continue at the schools.

Motions calling attention to the weaknesses of the Children and Young Persons Act were passed, including one saying that community homes should no longer be able to expel or refuse to admit violent pupils.

Several headmasters said the schools were having to take back violent pupils who had been rejected by specialized care centres.

EEC REFERENDUM

Unrepentant Mr Benn increases his estimate of jobs in peril

By Michael Hatfield
Political Staff

Undeterred by the scornful attack on Sunday from Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, the anti-EEC campaign will concentrate its main thrust this week on the harmful effects which, it is claimed, continued British membership of the Community will have on jobs and trade.

Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, aided by his Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Mr Michael Meacher, pursued the theme at a press conference yesterday. But Mr Benn would not be drawn into a public quarrel with his Cabinet colleague. What about the "falsehood" remarks made by Mr Healey? Mr Benn carefully replied: "I do not propose to make personal references. We have been conducting this campaign without personal references and we will continue to do so. I cannot dispute that the figures have been attacked, but they have not been challenged and no alternative facts have been provided."

Mr Benn and his colleagues were privately expressing some satisfaction at the intervention of Mr Healey, for it pitched the jobs and trade argument into the forefront of the campaign, which is precisely what opponents of the EEC wanted.

By the end of the week, however, the strategy will be aimed at convincing the electorate that it is possible for Britain to withdraw without an all-out, staged, tug-of-war with the other EEC countries.

Mr Benn went further in his claim about lost jobs yesterday by saying that it was not only people in manufacturing industry who would be thrown out of work if Britain remained in the Community. In a prepared statement, he said:

As our national income suffers, the blight will spread through the public services. A weakened Britain within the Common Market would soon be driven to throw teachers, office workers, secretaries, local government officials and other public servants out of work.

He argued that the Conservatives (there were no allusions to the arguments among his own ministerial colleagues) were already calling for severe cuts in public expenditure. He said it would throw people out of work and it was the white-collar workers, the clerks and managerial staff, who would be faced with the language barrier.

"A bricklayer can lay bricks in any language, but an office worker would have to express himself in another language," Mr Benn said.

Mr Meacher made the point, on the outflow of capital to the EEC countries, that on the 1973 figures (the latest available) the EEC had taken £430m. Calculated at £5,000 for each job, Mr Meacher reckoned that the outflow of capital could mean a loss of up to 250,000 jobs this year.

The figures added a further dimension to the jobs argument, for they were in addition to the 500,000 already men-

tioned by Mr Benn, who calculated his figures on the loss of trade. Mr Benn opened his prepared statement by saying that as a nation Britain provided jobs, bought its food and paid its national bills with the money earned by selling British manufactured goods abroad. He said:

In the world markets this year, Britain is earning nearly £4,000m net in our trade in manufactures. In the Common Market we are losing nearly £1,000m net. Britain's livelihood depends on us selling our manufactures. If we remain in the Common Market, where we buy so much more than we sell, we won't be able to pay our bills and we will gradually put Britain on the dole.

The facts were quite clear. Britain's trading losses with the Common Market are already damaging our major industries. But unemployment will not only threaten men and women in the steel, engineering, motor industries and textiles."

After making his comments on the public services, Mr Benn continued:

As a nation we cannot afford to stay in the Common Market. We must withdraw and develop our trade where we are already strong and successful—with the world as a whole. When Mr Heath took Britain into the Common Market in 1972 he promised we would sell so many of our manufactures in the Common Market that we would create jobs for our people. Now with Common Market steel, cars, machinery and textiles flooding the country and throwing our people out of work, the facts show that he was completely wrong.

Letters, page 13

Opponents 'distorting the facts' Mr Peart says

By Penny Symon
Political Staff

The EEC supporters started this week's campaign with accusations that their opponents were deliberately distorting facts and were suffering from a national inferiority complex.

Mr Peart, Minister of Agriculture, said yesterday in Luxembourg, where he is attending the last Council of Agriculture Ministers' meeting before the referendum, that the facts on food were being deliberately distorted.

Community opponents were claiming that the EEC destroyed food to keep up the price and would force Britain to pay more for food imports, that the EEC had a deal to sell cheap beef to Russia and that there was cheap food available elsewhere. All that, Mr Peart said, was not true.

Mr George Thomson, EEC Commissioner for Regional Affairs, said in Oxford yesterday that the case against the EEC was built on the fear that

whatever the rest of the Community did was bound to ruin us, and EEC opponents had no faith in Britain's capacity to compete on equal terms with her trading partners.

Who do you seem to have such a national inferiority complex?" he asked.

Mr Cyril Smith, the new Liberal Chief Whip, admonished the extremists who, he said, were trying to spread silly, mischievous rumours.

Speaking in Keighley yesterday, he said: "The fact is that Mr Benn wants us out of Europe because he believes that if we stay in, it will make it more difficult for him and his lefties to turn Great Britain into a left-wing state."

Mr William Rodgers, Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence, claimed in Farnborough yesterday that if Britain withdrew from the EEC, we could face the prospect of a ration-book state.

Diary, page 12
Shirley Williams, page 12

More work, not less, in chemicals

The chemical industry has gained 8,500 new jobs since Britain joined the EEC, it was claimed yesterday. In a reply to recent statements by Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, a Chemical Industries Association spokesman said that for chemicals the trade figures reflected the fall in the value of the pound.

When calculated in terms of volume of exports and imports, adjusting for inflation and price changes, the United Kingdom chemical industry was actually in surplus in 1974. Far from losing 8,000 jobs since the United Kingdom joined the EEC, as claimed by Mr Benn, the United Kingdom chemical industry has actually gained 8,500 new jobs.

The spokesman added that trade statistics were distorted because bulk cargoes from East Europe, now unloaded at Rotterdam, were wrongly listed as imports from the EEC when shipped on to Britain.

WEUROPE

EEC agrees to consider Portuguese link

From Michael Hornsby
Dublin, May 26

Foreign ministers of European Economic Community agreed in Dublin today to a special effort to link trade and aid links with Portugal. But there were doubts about the extent to which moves in this direction should be made dependent on political developments in that country.

Garret FitzGerald, Irish Foreign Minister and President of the EEC Council Ministers, was authorized by his colleagues to tell Portuguese leaders, whom he will next week in Lisbon, that the Community was anxious all it could to help. He will invite them to come to Brussels in July for a meeting with EEC ministers.

Portugal has been pro for a substantial broadening the free trade agreement it has had with the EEC since the beginning of 1973.

While there was agreement at today's meeting about the desirability of ties with Portugal, some members felt that it would be to wait and see how the political situation developed before commencing the EEC to concrete work on trade and aid.

German Foreign Minister reported by informed to be among those advocating a cautious approach, arguing Portugal's economic development is heavily dependent on the stabilization of the situation.

But other ministers, in the British, Danish and Belgium, believe that a concrete from the community would strengthen Portugal's democracy and that it should not shrink from aid and trade on explicitly conditional survival.

Mr FitzGerald was authorized to tell the Portuguese: "The EEC was ready in principle to discuss their main demands. These include better access to the Community's market, agricultural financial aid for development, technical assistance and improved schemes for Portuguese in EEC countries."

Apart from the reservations felt by so governments, there difficulty that several Portuguese industries, which these are most interlocking, such as tomato purée and precisely those most likely to be protected from Italian and French farmers.

The foreign minister listened to an expository Orlotti, the president European Commission series of proposals materials drawn up by mission in preparation special session of the Nations devoted to this in the autumn.

The proposals closely those put forward by son, the British Prime Minister, in his speech to the House of Commons in Jamaica. They include for the stabilization earnings of the producers, the encouragement of local processing of raw materials, the avoidance fluctuations and a change of market information between producers and consumers.

The Commission's like Mr Wilson's, fall of the more radical of the producers of the producers of the other things for the i of the manufactured export from the industry.

Gaullists' political success give coalition fill

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, May 26

The Gaullist and the parties congratulate selves today on yesterday's election result, where they did better than at the 1973 parliamentary elections.

Mr Jacques Chirac won the Tarn constituency in southern France. President Giscard d'Estaing's governing coalition of right-wing parties won 12 per cent of the vote.

The Socialists, second, also did better opposition candidate. But the most significant feature of the left's reduction of the C vote to 24 per cent of the party of Mitterrand has been under constant attack from the Communist Party.

Mr Sinatra's off concert in West Berlin

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, May 26

Mr Frank Sinatra called off the concert to have given this evening in West Berlin.

His managers attributed the decision to the "irreparable damage" of a large part of his repertoire, the 59-year-old singer's song.

In the two previous of his first tour of Germany, he was to have played in West Berlin. He was forced to cancel the tour because of the press of his own country.

He was kidnapped by the East German secret service, but he was able to escape and arrive in West Germany.

Belgium accused of trying to influence result

By Our Labour Staff

Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs and an untiring spokesman for EEC opponents, has accused the Belgian Government of seeking to influence the referendum.

In a letter to the Belgian Ambassador in London, Mr Jenkins said that on a recent visit he was "astonished" to see material advocating Britain's staying in being displayed in official Belgian offices.

He said he saw the posters displayed on the customs and police posts at the Zeebrugge ferry terminal. Pro-EEC pamphlets and car stickers were handed out to British tourists and British officials who were employed in the Common Market Commission were distributing such materials in the restricted area at Zeebrugge.

There was no one available for comment at the Belgian Embassy yesterday.

Allegations of CIA money for Europe cause denied

By a Staff Reporter

Mr David Steel, Liberal MP, Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, and vice-president of Britain in Europe, has dismissed allegations that pro-European youth organizations had received financial backing from the American Central Intelligence Agency.

Referring to allegations by Mr Richard Body, Conservative MP for Holland and with Boston, Mr Steel said at a youth press conference in London yesterday that Mr Body had "latched on to 20-year-old allegations about CIA finance of European youth campaigns" and tried to relate them to the present referendum campaign.

Mr Steel added that the European Youth Organisation was founded only a few months ago. He said he was publishing his finances in full, and he was obliged to under the Referendum Act, and it will be seen that not one penny of his income has derived from CIA sources.

Mr Body has been picking up very ancient political flags, and which therefore have very little relevance to the people on the platform this morning were told at the time these reports refer to, so even if every one of the far-fetched assertions were true, they are totally irrelevant to our 'Yes' campaign.

Similar allegations about CIA finance for pro-EEC youth movements were made in the current issue of Time Out.

The Britain in Europe campaign claims that most of organized youth wish to stay in Europe, and there were eight representatives of youth movements on the press conference platform. They included Mr Tony Kerpel, national chairman of the Young Conservatives; Mr David Cockcroft, organizing secretary of the Young European Left; Mr Simon Hedrich, the international vice-chairman of the Young Liberals; and Mr Colin Maltby, chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students.

Tactics of 'fear and smear'

By Our Political Staff

Supporters of EEC membership were last night accused of using the tactics of fear and smear by Mr Christopher Frere-Smith, chairman of the Get Britain Out campaign.

In a speech at Repton, Suffolk, he said: "Lord Hailsham's pronouncement that anyone who wants a 'no' vote is a part of those who want to bring about the destruction of our society... is arrogant and insulting to millions of loyal British citizens whose sole concern is what they believe to be best for their country and fellow countrymen."

The National Referendum Campaign yesterday published evidence which, it said, showed that President Giscard d'Estaing's Paris press conference last Wednesday indicated that the prosperous EEC countries would pursue economic unification and leave Britain out. It added:

We believe that the plan is to form a rich men's club within the EEC from which Britain will be excluded because of her financial weakness, and this represents a major alteration in the terms of membership as they have been presented to the British people.

£10m investment 'delayed'

By Peter Hill

European and American companies are holding back on investment in Britain until the outcome of the referendum is known, according to the London Chamber of Commerce.

In a statement last night the chamber said that some of the investments were quite substantial and one involved more than £10m.

Reports received by the organization indicated that all the investment projects now pending were to be directed towards development areas.

Factories the North-west battle ground

From John Chartres
Manchester

The main battle lines in the referendum conflict in the North-west are drawn around the engineering and textile industries, although it has to be admitted that such a bellicose analogy of the situation may not be justified by the action visible so far.

In spite of much diversification of industry and the high proportion of wage earners in shops, offices, teaching establishments and other services in the big cities, the region still looks for much of its basic sustenance to those two industries, and so far opponents of continued EEC membership seem to hold the initiative in attracting the attention of those who work in them.

Although the labour force in textiles is now being compared with the 1950s (the membership of the Amalgamated Textile Workers' Union, primarily representing the weaving trade, is 25,700 this year, compared with 84,000 20 years ago), what happens to the mills will tend to have a wide emotional effect throughout Lancashire and to some extent throughout the North-west.

Here the argument is concentrated on the severe and unexpected slump which began last year and is being blamed on an imposition of cheap textiles from EEC member states.

The principal pro-EEC protagonist in the textile world is Mr Cyril Smith, Liberal MP for Rochdale, who maintains that, almost without exception, textile employers believe in staying in. They think that the EEC will deal more firmly with the import issue than do the civil servants in Whitehall.

In engineering, EEC opponents are pointing to the severe drop in jobs during the past year. A substantial number of officials and shop stewards of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers are campaigning against membership. Mr Hugh Scanlon, the AUEW president, opposed Mr

Smith in a television debate last Thursday.

The Britain in Europe organization consists of some 60 autonomous groups, including a large one in the Greater Manchester area. The Get Britain Out campaign is operated by Mr Charles Starkey, a textile industry accountant from Rochdale.

Twenty-five Labour MPs in the North-west are against Britain's staying in, including eight ministers who voted against the Government in the Commons debate. They include such members of the Tribune group as Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, and Mr Heffer (Liverpool, Walton).

Merseyside presents a particularly intriguing situation, with Mr Heffer, the city's best-known MP, taking an opposite line to Mr William Sefton, chairman of Merseyside Metropolitan Council. In Liverpool the Britain in Europe symbol of a dove in Union Jack colours has been localized to that of a Liver bird.

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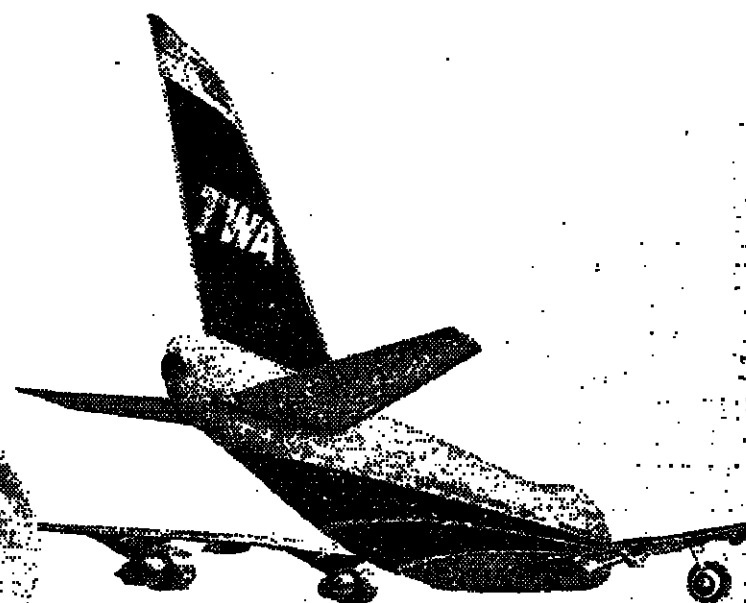
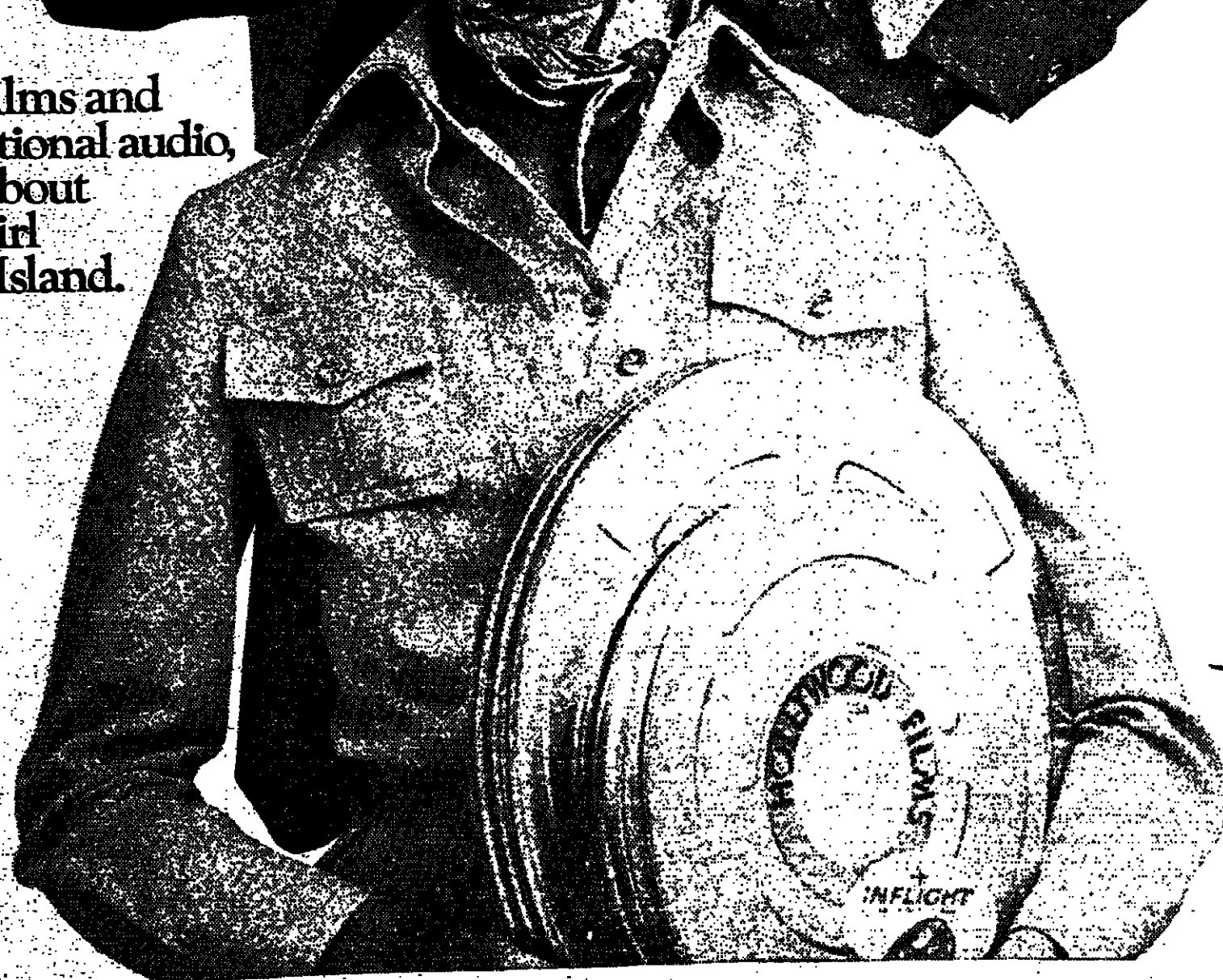


A cocktail from Kentucky, Scotland, the Bahamas, or London from a girl from Rock Springs, Wyoming.

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Trans World Service from TWA.

by Prudence Glynn

posterity—the great gold-steel, silver-ivory chess set; the iron duckheaded bangle, inlaid with gold but rough cast by the local blacksmith, which is owned by the Honourable Company of Goldsmiths—but also on commissions for local people who have come to accept his talent.

have come under fire. "Do they think I'm strange"? Yes they do, and of course I have to play up to that a little." But they ask him to make things, marvellous, original things which because of his osmotic knowledge of his environment have an entirely appropriate appeal.

He saves his problem in working so far away from London is that he can take time long over everything. Society's problem is surely that so far the main agitation against taxes on artistic possession has come from the "have's". The people who will buy from Malcolm Appleby and artists like him without whom our cultural heritage would be so much diminished are on the whole those who as yet have not—and at this rate maybe never will have.

SPORT

Cricket

Why Kent takes so long to bowl out the opposition on good pitches

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent**SOUTHAMPTON: Kent, with eight second innings wickets in hand, need 50 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Hampshire.**

Few of the things which a large crowd turned up yesterday expecting to see came to pass. To start with, Hampshire's last five wickets added another 211 runs, and when Kent went in, 159 runs behind, it was Jerry and Denness, rather than Roberts, who took the wickets to fall.

The day began with two hours and a half of Salisbury. With a similar pervasiveness Trevor Bailey used to be at his most effective on bank holidays, or on the Saturdays of Test matches when the ground was full. The Southampton groundsman, by the way, has provided another splendid pitch (after years at the county ground, Ernie Knight is having a well-deserved testimonial this year); it is true and not without pace, and provided Rice, a tall newcomer to Hampshire, last five wickets added another 211 runs, and when Kent went in, 159 runs behind, it was Jerry and Denness, rather than Roberts, who took the wickets to fall.

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But not the Kent batsmen. After Luckhurst and Johnson, with no little discomfort, had resisted Roberts' opening spell of six overs, Luckhurst and Johnson, with no little discomfort, had resisted Roberts' opening spell of six overs, Luckhurst and Johnson, with no little discomfort, had resisted Roberts' opening spell of six overs.

Denness had time for one straight drive for four off Herman before Jerry and Denness, rather than Roberts, who took the wickets to fall. Denness had time for one straight drive for four off Herman before Jerry and Denness, rather than Roberts, who took the wickets to fall.

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Boycott gives a negative display

By Gerald Sinsford

OLD TRAFFORD: Yorkshire, in their second innings, need 100 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Lancashire by 73 runs.

To see Boycott putting his head down and to hear the slow hand-cranked ball machine whirring in hand, lead Lancashire by 73 runs. To see Boycott putting his head down and to hear the slow hand-cranked ball machine whirring in hand, lead Lancashire by 73 runs.

There were no extenuating circumstances. The wicket was still inclined to be erratic in bounce. The Lancashire bowling and fielding were as accurate as they were zealous. The middle of the Yorkshire batting has no great reputation these days for solidity. Yet when all reasonable allowance has been made, Yorkshire fell short of giving the impression of a side whose prime intention was to win.

By the close, Boycott had made 45 in 60 overs. Leadbetter, whose apparent enterprise was magnified by the contrast with his partner, had made 38 in 22 overs.

Even though Simmons and David Lloyd bowled the only spin of the day in the last 40 minutes, there was no acceleration from Yorkshire's captain and it seems that the only antidote to a draw will be his early removal today. The only Yorkshire wicket to fall was Lumby, who could at least claim some justification for restraint after twice being hit painfully on the hand. The total reached only 53 when he turned the last ball of the thirty-four over to Shuttlesworth at backward square leg.

Calculated risks had contributed largely to Lancashire's first innings advantage. Equally, the policy led to several dismissals, though not in the case of Hayes who hand-somely harnessed style and timing. His downfall, when bounce and direction gave Lancashire the standard of his four catches of the day, was a forward defensive stroke after successive boundaries from a corner drive sprang from the bat.

It left Clive Lloyd, with Pilling as a reserve partner, to demonstrate that no one would make runs at a reasonable rate without some luck.

None of the three chances he gave was easy. On a towering mound, was dropped by Boycott, who contributed much to the

merit of the large crowd by visibly changing his mind several times while the ball whirled in the wind and sun. There was also some vintage Lloyd—powerful driving in an arc of no more than the width of the stumps, and most memorably, not off the back foot that hit the fence before cover point could look over his shoulder, and not trying to drive Old, the best of Yorkshire's bowlers.

At the start of the day Robinson had a long, hot spell, but afterwards, when the ball was in the air, he was out of the picture. He was out of the picture. He was out of the picture. He was out of the picture.

Lancashire's second innings was a forward defensive stroke after successive boundaries from a corner drive sprang from the bat. It left Clive Lloyd, with Pilling as a reserve partner, to demonstrate that no one would make runs at a reasonable rate without some luck.

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was his 13th innings for Kent this year. In the various competitions, and the ninth time he has been out in single figures. He is very much a player of ups and downs, of good runs and bad runs. To get back into form before leading England in the Prudential Cup, which starts on Saturday week, he has only a possible five innings.

When Denness was out 40 minutes were left. Kent could have all but lost the game in that time, as things had gone for them. So far they had looked a poor side. But Asif played some glorious strokes, among some edgy ones, and Johnson kept his end up. As for Roberts, he showed a sudden reluctance to take part. When he did so, though, for four more overs, he bowled short enough for Alley to tell him so in the last over of the day.

It was after 2.30 before a wicket had fallen, more than long enough to realize why it is that Kent take so long to bowl sides out on good pitches. They all bowl at much the same pace, except for Underwood. No one really spins the ball, and yesterday those who try (Underwood and Johnson) had no bowling to speak of. At medium pace Kent batted away over an hour, hour after hour, and then, through the second XI last season Rice had not made more than 22 in a first-class match before. For while, as he lunged on to the front foot, he kept short leg in constant expectation of a catch off his bat and pad, but by lunch the bowling was all alike to him, which, of course is what it was. In his innings of 62 he gave one chance, a straightforward one to Asif in the gully. By afternoon he was using his considerable height to drive well. Salisbury, mean while, squinted and nudged his way along, making 36 of a sixth wicket partnership of 112 before Exham threw him out, going for

a quick single on the leg side. Exham has just about the most deadly arm in England, from almost any range.

With Salisbury out Hampshire quickened up. Rice was going well when Knott took his sixth catch of the innings (he got a hand to a seventh later on); Taylor and Stephenson added 57 to 30 minutes and by the time Luckhurst caught and by the time Luckhurst caught Taylor at square leg no one watching could have been anything but sick and tired of the sight of medium pace. Knott had stood up to the wicket for only seven of the 117.2 overs of Hampshire's innings; yet in Underwood, Denness had in his side England's premier slow bowler. If that is modern theory it makes no sense.

KENT: First Innings, 152 (70.2 overs).
Wicket: 1. N. Shepherd 59; A. M. E. Roberts 10.
Second Innings
Wicket: 1. N. Shepherd 59; A. M. E. Roberts 10.
Third Innings
Wicket: 1. N. Shepherd 59; A. M. E. Roberts 10.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-31, 3-31, 4-31, 5-31, 6-31, 7-31, 8-31, 9-31, 10-31, 11-31, 12-31, 13-31, 14-31, 15-31, 16-31, 17-31, 18-31, 19-31, 20-31, 21-31, 22-31, 23-31, 24-31, 25-31, 26-31, 27-31, 28-31, 29-31, 30-31, 31-31, 32-31, 33-31, 34-31, 35-31, 36-31, 37-31, 38-31, 39-31, 40-31, 41-31, 42-31, 43-31, 44-31, 45-31, 46-31, 47-31, 48-31, 49-31, 50-31, 51-31, 52-31, 53-31, 54-31, 55-31, 56-31, 57-31, 58-31, 59-31, 60-31, 61-31, 62-31, 63-31, 64-31, 65-31, 66-31, 67-31, 68-31, 69-31, 70-31, 71-31, 72-31, 73-31, 74-31, 75-31, 76-31, 77-31, 78-31, 79-31, 80-31, 81-31, 82-31, 83-31, 84-31, 85-31, 86-31, 87-31, 88-31, 89-31, 90-31, 91-31, 92-31, 93-31, 94-31, 95-31, 96-31, 97-31, 98-31, 99-31, 100-31, 101-31, 102-31, 103-31, 104-31, 105-31, 106-31, 107-31, 108-31, 109-31, 110-31, 111-31, 112-31, 113-31, 114-31, 115-31, 116-31, 117-31, 118-31, 119-31, 120-31, 121-31, 122-31, 123-31, 124-31, 125-31, 126-31, 127-31, 128-31, 129-31, 130-31, 131-31, 132-31, 133-31, 134-31, 135-31, 136-31, 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Rymer swoops to upset Giacometti

Northern horses top in big race at Redcar

winner at Wolverhampton, where she got up close home to beat the favourite, Star Walk, probably

[illegible]

Bernard Levin

Inflation hits even the price of free speech

There is something agreeably ironic in the fact that, even as the promised Sack of London by the Picish hordes was failing to materialize on Saturday, mayhem was breaking out back home in Glasgow. Speaking as a Sassenach (if, indeed, that is what I am) I have to say that if the Scots are determined, against all advice, to damage people, it is better that they should damage one another rather than us Southern folk.

It would, however, be better still if nobody got damaged at all; and that brings me to the more serious implications of what happened in the Glasgow fracas. A number of arrests were made, and charges are to be brought. Naturally, I am offering no opinion on any question concerning the guilt or innocence of any person facing prosecution. But there are some general principles arising out of the affair which seem to me to need examining, and which may be examined without prejudice to anybody's legal rights.

To start with, we should be careful not to fall into the trap of concluding that because the political character of the clash turned largely on differences of political opinion between equally repellent bodies, members of the National Front being opposed by members of the Communist Party and various other totalitarian groups of the left, we can dismiss what happened as of no importance to that overwhelming majority which rejects totalitarianism of both left and right. (I hope, incidentally, that I shall not have indignant protests from persons who took part in the demonstration but who claim to be members of no totalitarian group. A man who attempts to prevent the expression of free speech thereby signifies his membership of a totalitarian organization with a membership of at least one.) Quite apart from the threat to public order and the situation of the police in such events, we all have a fundamental interest in seeing that democratic principles are maintained, and a no less basic duty to uphold them. And—on this at any rate there seems to be no dispute—the clash in Glasgow took place because members of the National Front wished to hold a lawful meeting to expound their views, and others wished to prevent them from doing so.

(Mr Neil Carmichael, MP, who has asked for an investigation

into the episode, said very sensibly that the demonstration should not have taken place, as then the presence of the National Front would have passed unnoticed, but although Mr Carmichael's remark was sensible, it was also naive, for it ignored the fact that if there had been no demonstration the very existence, let alone presence, of the demonstrators would have gone equally unremarked, and it is only through publicity that they can hope to thrive.)

Now when something that should not need to be said at all has to be said again and again, things have clearly gone seriously wrong. So when I find myself having to say more and more frequently that free speech must be upheld, I begin to get alarmed.

There is a considerable network of laws defining the boundaries of free speech in this country. It is an offence to stir up racial hatred or to incite violence, or to publish defamatory or obscene material, or to publish false information, or to publish information which is likely to cause alarm, or to publish information which is likely to cause panic, or to publish information which is likely to cause distress, or to publish information which is likely to cause damage, or to publish information which is likely to cause harm, or to publish information which is likely to cause injury, or to publish information which is likely to cause death.

Here comes the difficulty: it is no use having the right to express views if others can and do physically prevent their expression. And the difficulty can be resolved in only one way: the right to freedom of speech must be upheld, and ultimately can only be upheld by the forces of law (and of course only the forces of law) physically preventing from doing so those

who wish to physically prevent others from exercising their rights.

That is what the police in Glasgow were engaged upon, and they would have been seriously failing in their duty if they had not acted, and thus permitted the National Front meeting to be forcibly suppressed. On the details of what followed, and the criminal charges it led to, and for that matter on the allegation that excessive force was used by the police, I have nothing to say; on the principle that such bodies as the National Front must be allowed to hold lawful meetings they please, and advocate what lawful policies they like, I have to say that the police must continue to act upon it, and we must continue to give the police, nationally and individually, every support in their doing so.

As it happens, it is apparently not the policy of the National Front and other right-wing totalitarian organizations to attempt to break up meetings held by their left-wing twins, but it is the policy of the left-wing totalitarianists to attempt to interfere by force with the meetings of their right-wing mirror-images. This makes no difference at all; if the situation should be reversed, if fascists, say, tried to break up meetings held by communists, exactly the same principle would have to be applied. Upholding free speech means upholding it also for those who hate it, and if it also means the use of sufficient lawful force to ensure that unlawful force does not prevail, so be it.

Pitch does defile. After a brief flurry of protests, nothing much has been heard about the decision by the National Union of Students to deny free speech to right-wing organizations and individuals of whom the left-wingers in control disapproved; yet the policy is still in force. Even more brief was the argument over the decision by a branch of the National Union of Journalists to refuse membership to a particular journalist because he was an adherent of a right-wing political organization of which the left-wingers who control the branch disapproved; he has still not been admitted. Last time I discussed these problems, in connexion with the Red Lion Square episode, I said that the price of freedom appeared to be rising and that we must nevertheless continue to pay it. It has since, evidently, risen even higher. Very well; we must continue to foot the bill.

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Our friends abroad cannot all be wrong in wanting us to stay in the EEC

As polling day for the EEC referendum draws nearer, the generalizations become wider—from both ends of the spectrum. From one end we get the absurd claim that membership of the Community has already cost us half a million jobs, and that it will add 40 per cent to food prices. From the other, we have some over-enthusiastic pro-Marketees pretending to believe that our membership involves no loss of sovereignty at all, a patently silly claim.

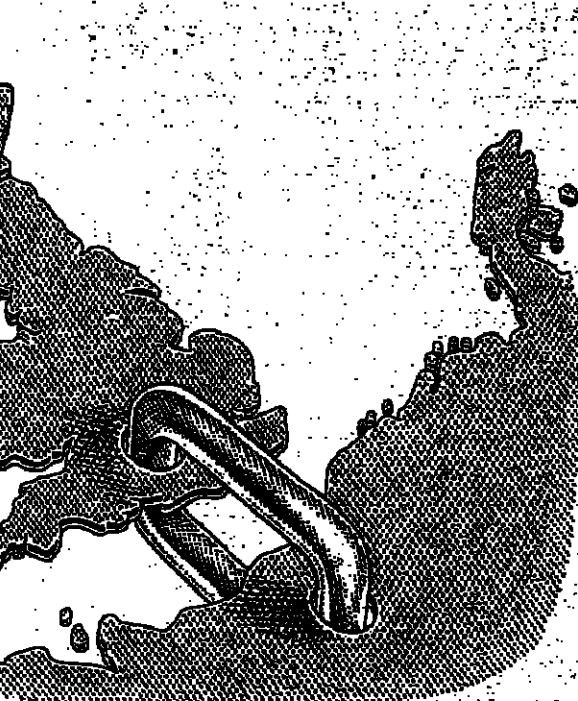
The 500,000 jobs are supposed to have been lost for two reasons. First, we are said to have lost 137,000 jobs as a result of our trade deficit with the EEC. Second, we are supposed to have lost a further 360,000 jobs due to "a general deflationary effect" arising from our membership.

But we also have deficits with the United States and the rest of western Europe. And there is no such "general deflationary effect" from our membership. The logic seems to be that we should cut off trade not merely with the EEC, but also with Efta and the United States. Impeccable logic, but it is a senseless, for if we do not trade we can hardly have deficits.

The "food price" scare is equally misleading. In our first two years' membership of the Community food prices have been slightly lower for us inside than if we had been outside. World food prices have nearly doubled in the past two years, rising much faster than Community prices (which in 1972 were, of course, at a higher level). What happens to food prices in the future depends on what happens to the world market. I cannot believe food prices will go back to the low levels of the past, since agriculture is increasingly dependent on

energy costs. Certainly, the anti-figures are sheer nonsense and also overlooks the benefits of secure supplies.

Of course, our membership of the Community does involve some loss of sovereignty, albeit a limited one. The Community cannot exist without power to make uniform rules to ensure that the Common Market works, and for that reason we have to delegate some power to the Community institutions. But the scope of the Community's delegated powers is limited. Our law on commercial and trade matters is directly affected. But there is no effect on our system of criminal justice, on habeas corpus and the right to trial by jury. In fact, most branches of our domestic law are not affected. On the other hand, of course, in exchange for a small



loss of juridical sovereignty, we gain more real control over our destiny.

It is illuminating to consider who, outside Britain, wants us in the EEC and who wants us out. Of course, the other eight member countries want us in, not least their social democratic parties—five of them in power alone or in coalition. Even most of the Communist parties and trade unions of the Eight want us in. All heads of government of the Commonwealth joined together in their statement from Jamaica to say our membership in no way damaged their interest. (Some anti-Marketees claim they know better than mere Prime Ministers what is good for Commonwealth countries, but I cannot think they impress many with that display of old-fashioned arrogance.) President

Ford has made it plain where he stands. China waxes passionate in support of our continued membership, seeing strong EEC as a powerful counterweight to the hegemony of the two giant powers.

The odd man out is Russia. I wonder why? As Willi Brandt has said many times, Germany's Cold War was possible precisely because Germany was a member of a powerful community. Russia, certainly responded to the Osepolnik. Why, then, is Russia so ardent for our abandonment of the Community? Could it be that, while Russia respects power, she would rather not have too much of it in the hands of others?

There is another argument sometimes used against our membership that I find singularly spurious—the argument

that a European community all very well, but we ought to become part of a more western European community. This argument is principally because it is invariably advanced by those who hold themselves out as democrats above all. From the beginning, the Community has set its face against admitting countries that democratic institutions, has been constantly rebuffed and rightly so. The Greek colonels were rebuffed, nugal under Salazar and tano had no chance what. An application from G returned to democracy y now be looked on with a Mario Soares has said th. wants Portugal in, and he certainly get a favour response so long as he is to fight off another for totalitarianism. To my mind community which inc authoritarian regimes of I right could not in fact community.

But there are already substantial variations with democratic framework. Community, France has the most planned economy most dirigiste economic Italy has more extensive more varied public service Germany is in the lead field of industrial dem. We have the best health service and a gre to learn from our members, and a great contribute.

I do not want Britain take any particular fear every detail. But I he less that there are a gre to learn from our members, and a great contribute.

Shirley Wil
The author is Secretary for Prices and Consumer Protection.
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Geneva talks have left the growing threat of a free-for-all on the high seas

It is going to be a long, tense summer for the maritime nations of the world. The inconclusive outcome of the recent Geneva Law of the Sea conference has brought nearer the possibility of a chaotic ocean revolution in which the only result will be a victory for the already powerful nations over the weak and the small, and a further widening of the gap between rich and poor.

The fear is that unilateral action by states to promote their own interests will escalate into an aquatic free-for-all. Like athletes, the maritime countries stand at the ready, warily watching each other, none wishing to anticipate the starter's pistol—which they know will not go off—but each prepared to join the chase as soon as one of the others makes a break.

The next session of the conference will not be until spring 1976, in New York, although constant discussions on a smaller scale are expected to take place during the interval. There is considerable doubt, however, that the collective patience of the world's nations can last that long.

The brave face governments are putting on for public consumption hides widespread disappointment and, to some extent, a sense of disillusionment with the Geneva talks. During its first few days there were hopeful signs of a much more flexible approach by the

main protagonists, but this feeling of cautious optimism did not take long to evaporate.

David Ennals, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who is responsible for law of the sea matters, takes the stock line to the Geneva conference: disappointment that there was no agreement in principle on the main points, but pointing out that on some issues progress had been made and in the end a single negotiating text had been produced. The existence of this single text as the basis for further discussion is also being used by spokesmen of other governments as well as by United Nations officials, as a face-saving device to calm sceptical outsider observers. In fact on the major points of controversy, the single text either fudges the issue by a form of words so vague as to satisfy everyone, or follows one of the alternative proposals in the knowledge that its opponents will continue to regard it as unacceptable. The 90-page text may make the process of discussion easier, but it is irrelevant to the resolution of substantive issues.

The main calls on the British Government to take unilateral action have come from representatives of the fishing industry, and pressure to restrict at least a 50-mile fishing limit, to 100 or 200 miles, is likely to be considerably increased now that the Government can no longer adopt a "wait and see" what happens in Geneva line.

The Scottish herring industry, in particular, says that it is at risk of extinction if action is not taken urgently.

Mr Ennals told The Times that he did not believe that a unilateral extension of limits would benefit the fishing industry. "Other states fishing around the United Kingdom would not necessarily accept such an extension and it would be impossible to enforce," he said. "By acting without their consent we could jeopardize the voluntary conservation measures which apply around our coast."

But Mr Ennals made it clear that if other states extend their fishing limits unilaterally, "we will certainly be ready to take necessary steps to protect the interests of our fishermen, including ensuring adequate recognition for United Kingdom rights of access, where these would be affected by such an extension."

"States which talk of early extensions to 200 miles would be wise to recall their interest in the United Kingdom and the European Community as a market for their fishery products," Mr Ennals warned.

Iceland has already announced its intention of going to 200 miles. In special agreement with Britain runs out in November this year, and the British Government will be looking for talks to try to renew the agreement or enter into another on broadly similar terms. But Iceland may not be so keen to grant British fishermen the same concessions,

and seems to be in no hurry to discuss renewal.

Norway is likely to declare a 50-mile fishing limit within the next few months, but is more anxious to have talks with Britain to discuss the future relationship. Bilateral agreement of this kind will not, however, solve the other problems raised by the extension of Norwegian and Icelandic limits: the diversion of fishing vessels from other countries towards British fishing grounds. For this reason, a declaration of a 50 or 200 miles limit by the United Kingdom Government, by itself, becomes necessary as a means of self-protection.

The Government's main objective must remain to try to reach agreement with other interested states within the context of a law of the sea conference. Mr Ennals emphasized. He did not rule highly the possibility of a successful regional fishing limit agreement because of the differences of opinion on limits by the states that would be involved. But he stressed the importance of making use of the existing bodies, such as the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, which today ends a crucial meeting, seen by British fishing interests as their last ditch stand to get the quotas of fish which can be caught near British shores by foreign vessels reduced.

Apart from fisheries, however, Britain's specific interests should not be adversely affected by the failure to reach

agreement in Geneva. Legal action by either side, at least if it interfered with minimal direct effect on some issues, right existing international greater than those like included in any global convention. For instance, coastal states' jurisdiction the exploitation of its c l shelf where it g farther than 200 miles.

On a more political much depends on the adopted by the United and, to a lesser extent, in the next few mon United States govern under great pressu from her fishing inter declare a 200 mile li from deep-sea mining ies, to allow them to s ing the suggestingly so apply as manganese lying in profusion on bed.

It is not so much th by these countries w Britain directly. The, however, provide an for other possibly m sponsible countries t puning beyond res already detailed, rati- cluding an internation ment. In the end gov may well have to sta dering separate cover specific topics rather ing to achieve the al package deal.

Marcel I
Legal Corre

P.A.Y.E. tax changes

The Budget means changes in your P.A.Y.E. deductions. Income Tax rates have gone up, but so have personal allowances. How and when these new rates and allowances affect you is shown below.

Increased tax rates and personal allowances. The new tax rates and allowances apply from 6 April—the start of the tax year. But 24 May is the earliest date from which they can take effect under P.A.Y.E. Up to now, the old allowances have been used, and you have been paying tax at the old, lower rates.

So a special adjustment is needed to put you on the new basis back to the start of the tax year. This will be made—on your first pay day after 24 May—when your employer starts to use the new tax tables, and increases your P.A.Y.E. code to give your increased allowance.

For most people this means a specially large tax deduction on that pay day—but for those on lower pay, there may be a reduced deduction, or a repayment.

REMEMBER: THIS SPECIAL ADJUSTMENT APPLIES ONLY TO YOUR FIRST PAY DAY AFTER 24 MAY.

The over 65s. If your code includes the proposed age allowance, it will NOT be increased when the new tax tables come into effect for the first pay day after 24 May, and your tax deductions will then increase. This is because you already have the benefit of the 1975-76 rate of age allowance in your code, which is higher than, and given in place of, the ordinary single and married allowances which were increased in the Budget.

Codes with suffix "T" (except the over 65s). If your code includes suffix "T" it will NOT be increased by your employer when the new tax tables come into use. The tax office will revise your code by the middle of June if you are entitled to an increased allowance.

Single parent families—the increased additional personal allowance. The tax office will revise codes to include the increased allowance by the middle of June.

If you have any questions, please call in at any Income Tax or P.A.Y.E. Enquiry Office. For addresses, look in the phone book under "Inland Revenue."

Issued by the Board of Inland Revenue

(The scene is a room in Broadcasting House, one day in April. Producers and presenters of *Scatter the Day*, the jolly morning programme on Radio 4, are discussing what to do about the European referendum. Tea was served some time ago. Some are nibbling on the few remaining boudoir biscuits, and there are desultory scanning local weekly newspapers for misprinted small ads. The producer speaks.)

Producer: I have it. We're looking for a European theme, right? Then why not send John Trivial on a tour of the European capitals? He can talk to the ordinary man in the street and find out what life is really like in Europe. Get right under the skin, as it were. Away from the diplomacy and into real life. The real European feel. What do you say, J. J.?

J. J. (director): Mmm. Hasn't it been done before?

Producer: Could be, but not the way Trivial can do it.

J. J.: What about the cost?

Prod: Not our worry, old boy. They can always put up the like fee. What do you say, Trivial?

Trivial: Oh, who? Me? Oh, yes, splendid idea. Europe, yes. When do I start?

Prod: Soon as you can.

Trivial: Any more of those biscuits left? Better stock up if I'm going to be exposed to filthy foreign food, eh? (So Trivial stung a toothbrush and a pack of Alka-Seltzer into his briefcase and went on his European odyssey. Since you may not have heard his reports, here are excerpts from some.)

Paris

Trivial: Here I am at the top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, land of wine, women and song. I can't say I heard much song yet—but the wine and the women, believe me you wouldn't believe it.

Desmond Languid (from the London studio): But what about

the food, John? Plenty of that good old Parisian cuisine?

Trivial: Marvellous, Desmond. Went to the Wimpy on the Boulevard des Capucines last night. The French fries were lovely. I was thinking, though—I don't know if you're going to believe this—but when I asked for the bill the waitress started adding it up on the tablecloth. What are you doing? I asked her. "Que faites vous?" I said. Anyways I gave her a hundred franc note and she gave me a saucy grin. Marvellous, these French women.

Languid: Where else have you been?

Trivial: Well, I went to the Louvre—none of your cheeky jokes now, please. It's a big art gallery, and they've got one marvellous picture of a woman whose eyes follow you all over the room. Quite incredible. Painted by an Italian. Chap called Leonardo Vincenti. I think that shows you what the Common Market is all about, really.

Languid: It certainly does. Thank you, John.

Trivial: Before I go there's just one more thing. A small ad in today's issue of *France-Soir*. It says—and I'm translating it from the French—"Wanted: piano for lady with boudoir legs. Actually it sounded much funnier in French.

Languid: I'm sure it did.

Copenhagen

Trivial: So here I am in the home of pastry and blue cheese. Copenhagen—city of wine, women and song. Actually it's beer more than wine and I haven't heard many songs. But the women—oh, I tell you that the city's symbol is a naked woman sitting on a rock, you'll get the picture. Beas Blackpool rock any day, eh Desmond?

Languid: Nice one, John. But I think most people know Copenhagen as a city of porno-

The Times Diary

Getting to the bottom of the real Europe

SPECIAL FORCE TRAINING AREA RESTRICTED TO UNAUTHORISED PERSONS

Today's bewildering sign was photographed in Uganda, between Masindi and Butiaba, by Alan Linn of Exeter University.

graphy—sex shops and live shows, blue films rather than blue cheese.

Trivial: I haven't been to any of the shops, Desmond. The BBC wouldn't let me put it on my expenses. But I did speak to a psychiatrist who has spent years studying the phenomenon. He's Dr Hans Groping, head of the Groping Research Institute in the Tivoli Gardens. Tell me, Dr Groping, what effect does all this pornography have on your average Dane in the street?

And how do you think it will be affected if Britain decided to leave the Common Market?

Groping: Vis, and no. What I mean to say is this. The Groping Research Institute have discovered that the average Dane does not go to the porno shows. Those who do are mostly European tourists, and this is where the Common Market comes in. In addition, much of the most explicit material comes from Britain.

Already our dealers are complaining about delivery times

and servicing standards and the unavailability of spares. Once one of your people sent a special explicit film with its last reel missing. The audience were on the edge of their seats for four days before we could get it delivered. And you also sent us a film which was wound on to its spool backwards, though in the event that proved rather interesting.

Trivial: Thank you Doctor. Well, that's just one of our vital export industries which might be hit if we pull out. But before I leave Copenhagen, here is an advertisement read in *Berlingske Tidende*: "Silver table lamp offered for sale by lady with polished bottom." Believe me, it was a scream in Danish.

Languid: I can imagine. Bye for now, Trivial. Add keep ringing up those expenses.

Madrid

Languid: This morning John Trivial continues his tour of the Common Market capitals from a surprise location. Where are you this morning, John?

Trivial: Good morning to you Desmond from Madrid.

Languid: Madrid? But Spain isn't in the Common Market?

Trivial: Good Lord. Really? No wonder I've been getting such strange looks. I suppose I can't do anything from here, then. None of those jokes about bullfighters and onions. How about Portugal?

Languid: Hold on, I'll ask the producer. (Pause.) No, he says that isn't in the Common Market either. You'll have to go on to Brussels.

Brussels

Trivial: So here I am at last in Brussels, headquarters of the European Community and city of wine, women and song. A lot of the most glamorous women work for the community and I have one of them with me now. She's British and her name, appropriately enough, is Betty Pretty. Now Miss Pretty,

if I may call you that clearly not just a pre-kiss bureaucrat, if you're the levity. Tell me, you do?

Pretty: I spend a lot of time warding off that. The rest of the work in the agriculture of the commission. My job is to look to these mountains—yo have heard of.

Trivial: Well no, I've the best mountain putter mountain and lake. What's the cheese rain?

Pretty: It's the same. It's where we keep surplus cheese we farmers to produce.

Trivial: Quite a resp. Do you get any of your asking they can con a nibble?

Pretty: Oh yes, often. far as the cheese is of the main trouble. There's a new breed nice who know n and who are resista known forms of pois only way we've found ing with them is to n of transistor radios all cheese mountains, swi to the BBC's referendu casts. We find it bo to death.

Trivial: Charming. W you Miss...

Pretty: Wait a mi wonder whether you advertisement this m. *Het Nieuwsblad*: I Wanted, record pli music lover with twi Trivial: It must have a scream in Flemish.

(And so our hero c European journey wine when Desmond, women leered at the sun. The cost to th holder was unknown certainly considerable the question of Europe was any the worse.)

Trivial: It must have a scream in Flemish.

Trivial: It must have a scream in Flemish.

Trivial: It must have a scream in Flemish.

Trivial: It must have a scream in Flemish.

Trivial: It must have a scream in Flemish.

EEC

vital as oil to our existence

osphate rock
abundant

most important depositing to present are in the United States, on the southern Mediterranean coasts extending north-west Africa, the Kola peninsula Soviet Union. Other deposits exist in the stern United States, the eastern region of the Union, and in Africa, as well as in Australia and the latter two being exploited yet. Smaller deposits of phosphate rock widely distributed in the world, and of them are being through generally at cost they can be in the high North and north African

It was the realization of the extent to which phosphate rock importers were depending on developing country producers for additional supplies that led to the dramatic changes in commercial policy started by Morocco at the end of 1973. The United States industry found itself for various reasons, unable to expand production while the Soviet Union was preoccupied with the need to ensure adequate supplies of phosphate rock for its home market, thus removing effective competition from the North African exporters.

The new listed export prices paid by Morocco for January 1974, were three times greater than those which had been in effect during 1973; corresponding increases were announced by other principal exporters with the notable exception of the United States. As the sole western exporter of large quantities serving a large domestic market, the United States phosphate rock industry tried to face unique constraints on its pricing policy.

The prices quoted by the Phosphate Rock Export Corporation (Phosrock), a sales representative of six of the United States mining companies, coincide to a substantial degree with those of other exporting countries, but are clarified by the limited quantity of United States phosphate available for export.

The price increase led by the Moroccans took place at a time when all commodity prices were rising rapidly but it was nevertheless shocking to consumers because phosphate rock had been characterized by a fairly stable price history, with none of the wide fluctuations

In international markets phosphate fertilizer prices increased far beyond the levels implied by the new phosphate rock prices, but have continued at a high level throughout the year. Some evidence of a slackening in demand for both fertilisers and rock has emerged in the early months of 1975, but the reasons for this are by no means clear. A major destructing is likely to be the main factor, but in due course it may emerge that farmers have seriously cut back their use of phosphate fertilizer, at least for the time being. The increase in prices which took place at the end of 1973 has facilitated the fulfilment of expansion programmes already planned by existing producers and has also speeded up projects to

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namely, the phosphate industry now has the funds with which to support this work.

World Phosphate

	Production
Total	100%
United States	10%
Soviet Union	10%
Morocco	10%
Tunisia	10%
China	10%
Togo	10%
Nauru	10%
Spanish Sahara	10%
Senegal	10%
Christmas I.	10%
Jordan	10%
South Africa	10%
Others	10%

Source: British Sulphur Corp.

Listed export prices	
Feb. 1973	
	\$14.25
	\$13.35
	\$12.40
Mar. 1973†	
	\$12.89
	\$11.32
	\$ 9.74

principally quoted on long ton basis

A dragline at Khouribga, Morocco. It can lift about 100 tons in a grab.

Production		Consumption	
Total	110.1	Total	112.1
United States	41.4	United States	31.1
Soviet Union	22.5	Soviet Union	16.1
Morocco	19.3	France	5.1
Tunisia	3.9	China	4.1
China	3.0	Japan	3.1
Togo	2.6	Canada	3.1
Nauru	2.3	West Germany	3.1
Spanish Sahara	2.2	Poland	3.1
Senegal	1.9	Austria	3.1
Christmas I.	1.8	Spain	2.1
Jordan	1.6	Belgium	2.1
South Africa	1.6	Netherlands	2.1
Others	6.0	United Kingdom	2.1
		Others	28.1

Source: British Sulphur Corporation

Listed export prices for phosphate rock				
Algeria (Morocco)	Feb 1973	Jan 1974	July 1974	Jan 1975
	\$14.25	\$42.00	\$63.00	\$68.00
	\$13.35	\$40.00	\$60.00	\$65.00
	\$12.40	\$37.50	\$56.25	\$60.75
Libya (United States)	Mar 1973†	Jan 1974†	July 1974†	Oct 1974
	\$12.89	\$27.07	\$41.34	\$55.80
	\$11.32	\$23.62	\$35.43	\$48.00
	\$ 9.74	\$19.68	\$29.53	\$39.00

originally quoted on long ton basis

Keystone is a reliable supply

But in November, 1973, OCP introduced a new pricing concept. The resultant tripling of its prices attracted a great deal of attention. Several economic commentators identified the "over" factors—Morocco's enormous reserves and its market dominance—but failed to take into account either Morocco's historical role or how and why the tight supply situation had developed.

Although OCP's commercial policy has attracted comment recently this has frequently lacked depth. The programme of massive investment in new capacity which OCP has announced has received little general attention. Yet both aspects of policy deserve close examination.

How was OCP able and why did it wish to raise the export price of phosphate rock by 200 per cent at the end of 1973? The reasons lie in the dual dependence of the world phosphate industry and the Moroccan economy on OCP's phosphate rock production.

The keystone of Morocco's commercial policy is the maintenance of a reliable supply. It is by upholding this commitment that OCP has achieved the position of great strength in the market which made the price rise possible. After a high rate of expansion in the early 1960s, the world phosphate market was, during the mid- and late 1960s, characterized by oversupply. OCP's share of the export market fell from 38 per cent at the start of the period to 27 per cent

MOROCCO
Planned phosphate rock production to the year 2000 in million tonnes

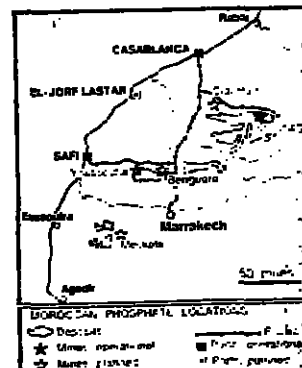
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0

1974 1976 1978 1980 1982 1984 1986 1988 1990 1992 1994 1996 1998 2000

PRESENT MINES

PLANNED MINES

Proposed output made possible by further exploration and development



Whereas most operators held back from further investment until the oversupply disappeared, OCP committed no less than DH630m (about £65m) to expanding the phosphate industry in the period 1963-72. When in 1971 the market started to increase production and meet its customers' requirements, in 1972 Moroccan exports increased by 1.7 million tonnes, while those of the United States—the second largest exporting nation—rose only 1,100,000 tonnes.

In the following year OCP again raised the level of exports—by 2,500,000 tonnes—but the United States producers were unable to make any extra material available for export. Consequently Morocco's share of the world market rose to 32.7 per cent compared with 29.5 per cent in 1970.

With supply clearly tight, and certain to remain so, OCP was able not only to introduce a massive price rise with effect from January, 1974, and a further 50 per cent increase in July, but, at the same time, to boost export shipments by a further 2,500,000 tonnes in the year, raising its market share to 34 per cent. It is obvious that Morocco's 1968-72 investments prevented the development of an acute shortage of phosphate.

In raising prices so substantially OCP took account of several factors which were adversely affecting the Moroccan economy at the time when fertilizer export rates were making large profits. First, phosphate export taxes had effectively deteriorated over a long period. Material, which was already priced at \$14.2 per long ton in 1952, had been sold at or below only \$11.75 during the 1960s and the price was restored to \$14.15 only in 1973.

Second, inflation, in contrast, had averaged 5 percent a year throughout this period and the dollar had been considerably devalued.

The sharp increases in oil prices and general inflation seemed certain to accelerate this latter trend in Morocco's investment program, estimated 70 per cent in 1974. The beneficial effect on the economy of the price increases which OCP introduced in these circumstances was seen when the mining industry's contribution to the gross domestic product rose from 6.5 per cent in 1973 to almost 20 per cent in 1974. Higher domestic earnings are clearly crucial to the attainment of economic growth.

How will Morocco maintain its position as a reliable supplier in the next 25 years? OCP expects world demand for phosphate to increase at an average annual rate of 6 per cent and mining capacity will be expanded in relation to this rate. In tonnage terms this means that capacity will increase from 16,500,000 tonnes in 1973 to

continued on page 11



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Tougher times for arctic pioneers

by M. R. Freeman

Some 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle in the Soviet Union, one of the world's largest phosphate mining operations—the Apatite Combine, named after S. M. Kirov—turned out some 14 million tons of apatite concentrate (phosphate rock) in 1974 to supply fertilizer manufacturers in the Soviet Union and abroad.

Much publicity is being given to the rigorous working conditions by the companies involved in the Alaska pipeline project, but these problems are very familiar to the Russians who began to tackle arctic mining in the 1920s when the huge apatite deposit was discovered on the Kola peninsula. Initial plans to establish an open-pit mine were defeated by the appalling weather and the first production, in August 1930, was from an underground mine.

It was not until the 1960s that the Russians felt able to achieve their initial objective—that of setting up an open-pit mine on top of Mount Rasvumchorr. To overcome the difficulties of transporting the ore down the mountain, three large shafts were driven 1,500 feet through the centre of the mountain to link with a three-mile tunnel, which had been built by workers from the Leningrad Metro.

The production of the four mines and two refineries of the Kola Apatite Combine has grown rapidly from four million tons in 1960 to 14 million tons in 1974, but there has

been a considerable increase in the cost of each new stage of expansion, as the quality of reserves declines and they become less accessible.

The true extent of apatite reserves on the Kola peninsula has never been revealed, but it has become clear that they now represent a real limitation on the future expansion of mining capacity and that as a result the Soviet Union has to seek additional sources of phosphate rock for its fertilizer industry.

The output of the Kola Apatite Combine has generally been divided almost equally between the home market and export. Within the Soviet Union, Kola apatite is used to supply three quarters of the fertilizer industry's phosphate raw material requirements, but recently this proportion has fallen back to 65 per cent.

Two thirds of the material exported is delivered to Comecon markets in Europe, where it is used to account for half of the region's imports; but here too Kola has been unable to keep up with the growth of demand and its share of the market has recently declined to 40 per cent.

The remaining exports of Kola apatite are directed towards consumers in Western Europe where its unusually high quality (86 per cent tri-phosphate lime—TPL) makes it attractive in relation to other supplies of phosphate rock, but limited availability has caused it to lose its share of the Western European market to fall steadily to below 10 per cent in 1974. Any falling off in the rate of growth of production at the Kola Apatite Combine will bear most heavily on phosphate rock users in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Although the Soviet Union possesses huge reserves of phosphate rock, it appears to lack the special technology which would enable good quality concentrates to be produced for the fertilizer industry. At one time the Kara Tau deposit in Kazakhstan was seen as the key to the Soviet Union's future phosphate rock supply, but unfortunately the ore has proved difficult to upgrade and it

ships simultaneously—facilities that are second to none. A further advantage is the fact that it is a deep-water port.

Production of phosphates during 1975 was somewhat disappointing—650,000 tonnes were produced, representing a drop from expected production figures of 1,700,000 tonnes. This was mainly because of technical problems at El Aaiun through a referendum by which the nomadic inhabitants of the region will vote on self-determination—with close ties to Madrid.

However, it is not certain even the tribal nomads of the Sahara fully understand the implications of their vote—whether the Spanish Sahara's neighbours will abide by the results of the referendum, ordered by the United Nations.

King Hassan II of Morocco (the strongest contender) has declared that he does not oppose a referendum on condition that the Spanish military and administration are first withdrawn and that people not asked to vote for independence. But since he feels that the country should be integrated with Morocco, it seems unlikely that his conditions will be met.

Until a few years ago the Spanish Sahara—some 266,000 sq km of desert inhabited by about 76,000 nomadic tribesmen roaming over it with herds of camels, sheep and goats—seemed poor and undesirable and Spanish control was undisputed. However, the discovery in 1963 of phosphate deposits, after unsuccessful prospecting for oil, totally altered the situation.

The deposits have proved to be among the richest in the world; the ore is of very good quality (though its chlorine content is making its use for some products difficult), it is easy of access, being situated in the Bucra area near the Moroccan border, and is close to the surface and near the sea. Also the ore reserves are vast—estimated at about 1,700 million tonnes. The mine was first exploited in 1972 and the rock is extracted by open-cast mining techniques by the Spanish Consortium Fosfatos de Bucra S.A.

From Bucra the rock is transported by a 72 km conveyor belt, capable of transporting 2,000 tons of rock an hour to a beneficiation plant at El Aaiun on the coast. The construction of a new port at El Aaiun with three berths has provided excellent loading facilities; it can take bulk carriers of up to 10,000 tonnes and is capable of loading three

ships simultaneously—facilities that are second to none. A further advantage is the fact that it is a deep-water port.

Production of phosphates during 1975 was somewhat disappointing—650,000 tonnes were produced, representing a drop from expected production figures of 1,700,000 tonnes. This was mainly because of technical problems at El Aaiun through a referendum by which the nomadic inhabitants of the region will vote on self-determination—with close ties to Madrid.

is unlikely to be accepted as a substitute for Kola apatite concentrate in the fertilizer factories of European Russia.

Meanwhile a number of plants are being established in the Central Asian republic specifically to operate on Kara Tau phosphate. The smaller Kingisepp deposit on the Baltic coast, near Leningrad, was opened up with Comecon finance in the early 1960s to provide phosphate rock for export to eastern Europe, but the buyers were dissatisfied with the quality of Kingisepp phosphate and the Russians were forced to build a fertilizer plant on site to enable finished fertilizer to be offered to their Comecon partners.

In 1974 a series of 10-year contracts for fairly modest quantities of monoammonium phosphate were concluded with Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Hungary to run from 1976 to 1985. In the Kola peninsula some 800,000 tons a year additional production of apatite is being obtained by creating tailings at the Kovdor iron mine. Some idea of the urgency of the situation may be had from the decision to mine apatite from a low-grade deposit near Ulan-Ude, on the shores of Lake Baikal, which is reported to be under construction.

Even more significant is the decision to turn to sources outside the Soviet Union to bridge the phosphate gap. The first of these involves the United States company Occidental Petroleum which is contracted to supply one million tons of superphosphoric acid annually for 20 years beginning in 1978.

Occidental will manufacture the superphosphoric acid at its own phosphate rock mines in northern Florida and will be shipping the equivalent of 2,500,000 tons of rock to the Soviet Union each year. Superphosphoric acid is an intermediate in the manufacture of fertilizers which is not widely used outside the United States, but which was attractive to the Russians because it is associated with a complex approach to fertilizer distribution.

The Soviet Union is also engaged in discussions with the Moroccan Government over a long-term arrangement for the delivery of five million to 10 million tons a year of Moroccan phosphate, while simultaneously the Russians would assist with the exploration and eventual development of the Maskala deposit in Morocco. These negotiations have yet to be concluded. The possibility cannot be excluded that the Soviet Union will seek to deliver Moroccan phosphate to its East European customers in place of Kola apatite.

Consumers of phosphate rock in Eastern Europe include six Comecon countries, together with Albania and Yugoslavia. Demand has grown steadily in recent years and exceeded 10 million tonnes for the first time in 1974, all of which has to be imported. The Soviet Union, which in earlier years met half this demand, will no longer be able to do so from 1977. Morocco overtook the Soviet Union to become the premier supplier to Eastern Europe, delivering 45 per cent of its requirements.

Demand for phosphate rock in this area is broadly proportional to the size of the respective countries' phosphate fertilizer industries which in turn have been developed to supply local agriculture.

Some idea of the rate of growth of fertilizer usage in the Comecon countries may be obtained from the following table:

Phosphate Fertilizer consumption in Comecon countries Kilograms P.O. per hectare agricultural land						
	1960	1965	1970	1971	1972	1973
Bulgaria	9	23	39	44	38	43
Czechoslovakia	21	38	46	53	52	59
East Germany	3	4	6	6	8	8
Hungary	9	17	32	37	39	47
Poland	9	17	31	33	37	41
Romania	4	9	16	14	15	23
Soviet Union	2	4	6	6	7	7

Source: Adapted from Comecon statistical yearbook, 1974.

Soviet Union

Tunisia

Confidence revives

by Ivan Barnes

Having seen their phosphate production plans frustrated in recent years by depressed prices, the Tunisians are now confident that their industry is on the move again. There is a 1980 target to mine nearly eight million tonnes, almost twice what was achieved last year, and a strong determination to attain it.

Mr. Hassan Bousoffara, General Director of Mines, gave me an at times impassioned exposition of production and soaring prices, as seen from the primary producer's viewpoint. That the argument was not new made it no less sincere.

He sees big increases in the cost of phosphates as nothing more than the reasonable adjustment in real terms of the prices of 1960. Tunisians think they have had a raw deal. The mines in the Gafsa area, where almost all production is concentrated, have lost about \$30m over the past decade, with losses latterly reaching some \$5m a year. This has had a serious effect on maintenance and renewal of equipment, on research and on wage levels. This year there will be a profit, but it will be a long time before the earlier losses and rundown of equipment can be made up, especially since an investment programme of \$120m will be needed to reach the 1980 target.

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One of the most important parts of the Tunisian Government's phosphate plans is the idea of processing as much of the raw material as possible within the country. Last year 35 per cent of the mined product was processed locally; the objective by the

whole business to a great extent in human terms—in terms, for example, of the 12,000 Gafsa families dependent on his mines. He is delighted at the thought of rapid expansion of output because it will help his Government to fulfil its obligation to bring social benefits to the people. He is just as clear in his view of the obligations of the developed world.

"Tunisia's duty is to provide phosphates to help world food production," he said. "But it is the duty of the industrial countries to provide manufactured goods at a reasonable price. We must maintain a viable cycle. To break the cycle is a catastrophe."

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Proud of it achievement

The ICM production was 61,708 tonnes in 1972, 93,164 in 1973, 124,004 in 1974 (a coming into play at the end of the year). It is estimated that production this year will be between 200,000 and 250,000 tonnes. Phosphates are a strategic resource and require one tonne of acid.

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Spanish Sahara Rivalry for control

by Susan Morgan

Repeated clashes between Spanish soldiers and Spanish Saharan guerrillas in recent months point out the increasing tension in this area where bitter rival claims are being pursued by Morocco, Mauritania and Algeria which all dispute Spain's right to the territory. The question is to be decided later this year through a referendum by which the nomadic inhabitants of the region will vote on self-determination—with close ties to Madrid.

However, it is not certain even the tribal nomads of the Sahara fully understand the implications of their vote—whether the Spanish Sahara's neighbours will abide by the results of the referendum, ordered by the United Nations.

King Hassan II of Morocco (the strongest contender) has declared that he does not oppose a referendum on condition that the Spanish military and administration are first withdrawn and that people not asked to vote for independence. But since he feels that the country should be integrated with Morocco, it seems unlikely that his conditions will be met.

Until a few years ago the Spanish Sahara—some 266,000 sq km of desert inhabited by about 76,000 nomadic tribesmen roaming over it with herds of camels, sheep and goats—seemed poor and undesirable and Spanish control was undisputed. However, the discovery in 1963 of phosphate deposits, after unsuccessful prospecting for oil, totally altered the situation.

The deposits have proved to be among the richest in the world; the ore is of very good quality (though its chlorine content is making its use for some products difficult), it is easy of access, being situated in the Bucra area near the Moroccan border, and is close to the surface and near the sea. Also the ore reserves are vast—estimated at about 1,700 million tonnes. The mine was first exploited in 1972 and the rock is extracted by open-cast mining techniques by the Spanish Consortium Fosfatos de Bucra S.A.

From Bucra the rock is transported by a 72 km conveyor belt, capable of transporting 2,000 tons of rock an hour to a beneficiation plant at El Aaiun on the coast. The construction of a new port at El Aaiun with three berths has provided excellent loading facilities; it can take bulk carriers of up to 10,000 tonnes and is capable of loading three

ships simultaneously—facilities that are second to none. A further advantage is the fact that it is a deep-water port.

Production of phosphates during 1975 was somewhat disappointing—650,000 tonnes were produced, representing a drop from expected production figures of 1,700,000 tonnes. This was mainly because of technical problems at El Aaiun through a referendum by which the nomadic inhabitants of the region will vote on self-determination—with close ties to Madrid.

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Florida

Oranges line path of reclamation which is keeping pace with development

by Patrick Brogan

Phosphate mines are not very pretty, and an abandoned mine, left to itself and the slow processes of nature, is a scene of desolation. The country is despoiled more thoroughly even than in coal-mining districts and there is the added certainty that the streams and rivers of the area will be polluted for a generation by the continued seepage of poisonous sludge from the mines.

Fortunately for Florida, things do not happen like this any more. The environmental lobby made its mark on legislation and attitudes before the enormous expansion of the Florida phosphate industry got under way, and reclamation is now keeping pace with development. This is lucky, because something like a third of the world's phosphate deposits are in Florida and the world's need for fertilizers is not likely to decline.

Damage to the landscape is more easily visible than the damage to the water-table, and is more easily cured. The topsoil, what there is of it, is removed and put to one side, and then another 20 ft or so of sand has to be removed. This is done by an enormous machine, known as a dragline, which has a reach of 350 ft.

The largest of them scoop up 60 cu yd of material at a go. The phosphate deposits under the sand—about 12 ft deep—are scooped out and piled up in front of high-powered hoses. The resulting slurry is pumped away. About a sixth of the phosphate deposit is usable and the problem lies in disposing of the rest.

The sand and the topsoil can be disposed of easily enough. The draglines, ripping out 60 cu yd every two or three minutes, 24 hours a day, make a big hole in the ground and the sand can be poured back into it, covered with top soil and planted immediately.

The liquid slurry, with the valuable phosphates separated out, can also be pumped into the holes, surrounded with retaining walls thick enough to keep it there, and left to settle. The trouble is this might take 20 or 30 years.

It forms a marsh and even when the ground is firm enough for the top soil to be replaced, it is not firm enough to build on. The marsh is a paradise for insects and, therefore, for birds—and some of them

have been given to the Audubon Society as bird reserves. This method of dealing with the slimes—the residue of the separation process—is no longer acceptable. So much land is mined that enormous marshes would be created and, every so often, the slimes will seep out or break through the retaining walls and pollute the waters. A new process has been developed in Florida, however, which may provide the answer. The great stagnant ponds of muck (slime at the bottom, water above) are sprayed with a mixture of sand and water.

The sand sinks down through the various layers of slime, collecting the clay as it goes and, in theory, causing a much more rapid separation of these various elements than happens naturally.

The engineers who devised the system hope these stagnant ponds will be solid enough in a year or so to have the top soil put back on them, and a first planting of grass. A few years later, orange groves or golf courses can be introduced—and while the land will not take heavy buildings or roads for years yet, it will be usable for all other purposes in that part of Florida (oranges, grazing or recreation).

Levy on land being mined

Five years ago, to encourage mining companies to reclaim their land after finishing mining, the Florida Legislature introduced the severance tax. This is a levy on land being mined, most of which the companies may retrieve if they undertake reclamation.

The cost of reclamation (and the tax) varies. In Lakeland, one of the main mining centres, "lakeside" plots sell for \$15,000 to \$20,000. The lakes are phosphate pits, and the plots measure 100 by 150 yd.

The average cost of reclamation is about \$3,000. Areas where sand is poured into the excavation and top soil spread over it may cost no more than \$1,500, but areas used to consolidate slimes could be \$6,000 or more. The companies probably spend more on reclamation than they gain, but they are making so much money now that they are willing enough to do it.

Concentrates can be extracted

The demand for phosphates is so strong that it has become worth the companies' while to reprocess the leavings of earlier operations. Valuable concentrates, which an earlier technology had to leave, can now be extracted from these abandoned wastes, and the land can then be made fit for reclamation.

Another benefit of modern technology which has helped the Florida environment is the discovery of industrial uses for the fluoride which used to be released freely into the atmosphere and which was a chief cause for popular discontent with the companies. It is now worth their while to filter it out, together with sulphur dioxide, another noxious by-product, and the combination of self-interest and public pressure has done much

to eliminate this element of atmospheric pollution.

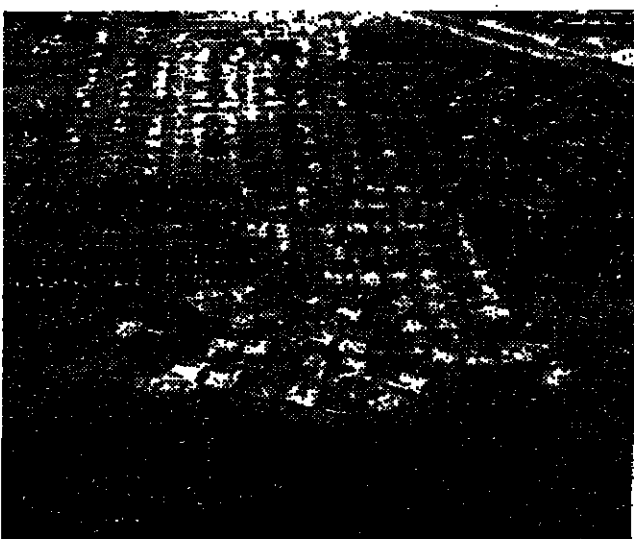
Water pollution is more difficult to control. The companies' aim is to conserve all the water they use. One mine uses 250 million gallons a day. If it is all recycled, kept within the mine (which may cover 17,000 acres, like the Haynesworth mine) then no contaminated water will escape into the rivers. Not many mines can approach this ideal and this is where improvement is needed.

Bone Valley is so named after its fossils. The phosphate deposits are the accumulation of the remains of various shellfish, laid down in a thick deposit over many millions of years, when central Florida was a shallow sea.

The fossils extend from sharks' teeth to complete animals, including mastodons and giant sloths. Some of the sharks' teeth are triangles measuring 6 in each way, with serrated edges. They must have been the most dreadful fish in the history of the oceans, 100 ft long and with insatiable appetites.

The draglines, 2,000-ton monsters, costing \$5m or \$6m each, are worthy successors to the giant sharks—and their operators, 60 ft in the air, will never notice bones or other objects dredged up by their machines.

Fossil-hunters go on foot (and sometimes find Indian relics as well) and are the only people who prefer the land ravaged by the phosphate miners. When it is all smoothed over and planted with orange groves or golf courses, their treasures are buried for ever.



A beneficiation plant where the phosphate is separated from the sand and clay. The sand is used in reclamation and the clay is stored in a settling area. Top: reclaimed phosphate land being used for homes.

Banaba

Return of the hardy native

by Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

A London courtroom has become the unlikely forum for the hearing of complaints by the people of a remote and tiny South Sea island about the past exploitation of its phosphate deposits.

Two cases now before the High Court represent the culmination of a long-standing and growing sense of grievance and frustration by the Ocean Islanders over their economic and political treatment at the hands of the British.

The 1,500-acre island, more properly called Banaba, is one of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands. That is one of the problems. Another is that its 2,500 natives do not live on it, and have not done so since 1942. They now wish to go back, but not as part of the same island grouping.

The roots of the current social and political problems, however, and the background to the litigation lie in the economic fact that Banaba is rich in phosphate. For the past 75 years, mining of the deposits has been lucrative, but not the Banabans say, for them.

In the first action, Banaban landowners want the High Court to order the United Kingdom Government and the British Phosphate Commissioners (under whose control mining operations take place) to replace worked-out phosphate mines with food-bearing trees. They allege that a promise by the authorities to do this has been broken, and that as a result the face of the island has been scarred like a moon landscape. If this is not done they claim compensation in lieu.

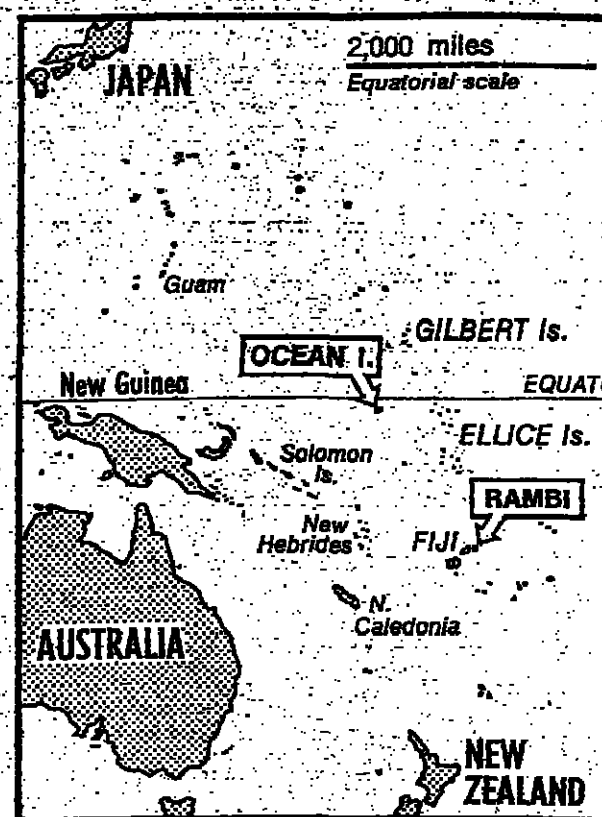
In the more important of the two cases 300 islanders claim a total of £22m in phosphate royalties. They say that over the past 50 years they had received less than their entitlement, partly because Banaban phosphate had been consistently sold off by the British Phosphate Commissioners at less than its market value. There is also the strong implication of a simply unworthy people being taken for a ride by complicated governmental agencies.

The story starts in 1900, with the discovery of phosphate on Banaba by an employee of the Pacific Islands Company. This resulted in the island becoming a British settlement tracked on to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands. In 1902 King Edward VII granted a subsidiary of the company a 99-year concession to mine for phosphate on Banaba, on payment of sixpence a ton royalty.

In 1920 the mining rights were sold, for £3.5m to the British Phosphate Commission, a consortium of the British, Australian and New Zealand governments. A royalties fund was set up for the benefit of the islanders. But they say, because phosphate was sold to Australia and New Zealand at well below the world market price, the fund did not receive anything like the sum it would have obtained had the commissioners pursued normal commercial policies in selling the phosphate.

In 1942 the Japanese invasion dispersed the islanders and after the war they were brought together and taken to Rambi, an island in the Fijian group. In 1947, after advice from the British Government, they voted to remain on Rambi. At the same time they specifically reserved their right to return to their homeland Banaba.

This is what they now want to do. But they do not want to remain in the same political entity as the Gilbert



islanders, who are soon to become separate from the Ellice Islands, after the result of a referendum which the British Government has accepted in principle. The Banabans say that their traditions and culture are different from those of the Gilbertese. They also feel some resentment that tax on their income from phosphate accounts for a large proportion of Gilbert and Ellice income, little of which is used for Banaban benefit.

Banabans have been unsuccessfully pressing the British Government for a decade for independence with an associated status with FIJI. In a sense, the court cases are one aspect of this claim. But there is also an urgent practical problem. The phosphate on Banaba is expected to be mined out before 1980. But unless some action is taken now to develop some alternative for economic activity—fish, one possibility—return of the Banabans will be a back to an empty ghost town, which has been badly deformed as to its almost unrecognizable looks, one description of which the fillers dropped.

The publicity given court hearings—there is the possibility of the island and an entourage of lawyers and experts going to the island in person—is to give a boost to the Banabans' claims, whichever the decisions go. But in a sense, the court cases have had to learn the same hard way. Pto may have made them simple backward islanders. But it has also before 1980. But unless some action is taken now to develop some alternative for economic activity—fish, one possibility—return of the Banabans will be a back to an empty ghost town, which has been badly deformed as to its almost unrecognizable looks, one description of which the fillers dropped.



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rapidly changing international picture op in prices likely after war of nerves

Robert Aries

phosphate rock trade in a war of nerves. Importers, exporters and some national material mined in some countries. All the time to the next this if they want to reasonable share of the market this year, cut reduced from their long and forecasts. discounts, delivery what larger quantity participation in costs are the which will probably. The background importers' reluctance new long-term contract that they believe essent spot prices, ough 15 per cent ban posted prices, n represent the border market. The a rock consumption continue to be the, particularly in month. This is due up drop in interna- rthier prices since year of the year, g to 30 to 40 per

lines that the trade will get nowhere if the exporters continue to press their advantage to the hilt, as they did in 1974, and then when conditions reverse, the importers retaliate.

There are at present protracted negotiations over individual contracts, with importers demanding concessions in specifications and quantities. In a classical supply and demand fashion the Moroccans are talking of another 4 to 7 per cent increase because of inflation and dollar devaluation while spot and some contract (cost, insurance, freight) prices with other producers have softened considerably.

Any hopes that the offer by those who cannot sell their phosphate rock would provide a firm base for the 1975 market have been realized. Apart from the old deal here and there, contract renewals remain inactive. But plenty of contracts were signed last December. How much longer can the exporters remain aloof and allow the initiative to remain with the users?

There are signs that some large phosphate rock suppliers are being more amenable on the questions of prices, in writing contracts in currencies not tied to the value of any other currency, and extending long-term credits.

An important force in the market equation is the

United States producers and consumers of rock. Only two of them are members of the Paris-based World Phosphate Rock Institute.

In a situation like the present, Morocco does not like to make the first move to push the market down, especially this year when there has been a great deal of consultation between the supplying countries. So a logical conclusion to the war of nerves would be for others to reduce prices in recognition of economic facts.

The 8 per cent price rise in January was theoretically sponsored by the Jordanians. Morocco prefers for the present to extend long-term credits, install facilities in consuming nations, and re-demand superphosphate manufacturers for making too high profits in selling to developing countries. But since shortages have ended, export prices will have to align themselves with domestic prices.

If all prices go down—and there have been some instances in the last month—then the market will have a debating point that will last for years. If there had been no consultation between exporters to keep market prices up (in the past when their stocks were at their height importers thanked their lucky stars that this was so) would a series of individual downward adjustments have achieved a better level than collective resistance, to be followed perhaps by a collective capitulation, to economic fact?

The answer to this question remains to be seen. Phosphates have undergone more radical changes since 1972 than at any time of their long history. These changes affect all countries as phosphorus products consumers, 31 countries as phosphate rock producers, about 100 important chemical and fertilizer companies and several hundred less important ones in all continents, including an increasing number owned or controlled by governments.

They extend from the giant Chicago-based International Minerals & Chemical (IMC) accounting for 8 per cent of world sales, to ICI and Fisons, the British leaders, the Italian giant Montedison, and Eastreprise, Minère et Chimique (EMC), the French state-owned company, for which last year was one of the few profitable ones, but which has recently announced some partial lay-offs.

Will history repeat itself and bring prices of phosphate rock back to a level close to the present cost of production of about \$15 a ton, compared with the Moroccan price of \$68 a ton after its latest increase in January? Or will the new small increase talked about by the Moroccans be able to stick?

chemicals, which has weakened also by 15 per cent, will benefit from the lower prices for phosphate rock. Companies such as Olin, Albright & Wilson and Rhône-Poulenc will profit from it, according to Phosmarket.

The euphoria, shortages and panic of 1974 have ended. The phosphate rock and fertilizer industry will find its new levels this year. While phosphate rock is the most profitable product of IMC thanks to the windfall of price increases, profits can again take a tumble, and two or three tier prices may exist in the future. But when customers take 10 per cent less phosphate rock, as provided in the existing contracts, five million tons have to look for markets.

A year ago all customers were taking 10 per cent more than the tonnages specified on their contracts. This 20 per cent difference weighs heavily on the supply and demand balance of phosphate rock. Most of the 150 companies with which Phosmarket researchers talked have not forgotten what happened last time and the fact that fertilizers have always been considered as the most fiercely competitive and lowest profit margin end of the chemical process industries.

The large price rises of phosphate rock over the past 18 months, which have added more than \$40 a ton and have raised the prices for phosphate fertilizers and phosphorus chemicals have already created \$5,000m extra profit on the part of raw material suppliers as well as the extra profits of the processors. This monopoly profit situation cannot be expected to continue, as farmers cannot pay 1974 fertilizer prices when the agricultural products which they make sell at 1973 prices.

The predictions of phosphate scarcity this year are not based on a sound market analysis and do not take into account the elasticity of demand.

Until the next inflation wave, it is believed that phosphates will not only be unable to extend their price gains of the past 18 months but will have to readjust their supplies and prices to the realities of 1975.

Expansion of rock capacities

In spot sales and some contracts with hidden discounts negotiated in the past month, phosphate rock prices on a cif basis are now 15 per cent below official prices, and in some spot cargo cases as much as 25 per cent below. No announcements have been made about price drops, but apparently many phosphate rock producers do not know what to do with some of their production (except stock it or decrease their production rates). And more and more negotiated contracts are being discussed just as before 1974.

Regular announcements of expansion of rock capacities or production (such as by Jordan from 10,000 to more than a million tons of exports in one year) and of new mines, including even a fast production one in California, appear regularly in the world daily press. The opening of the Suez Canal should bring Moroccan phosphate closer to Asia, and eliminate much of Jordan's shipping advantage to that area.

IMC dates back to only the last war, and it was in receivership before (under its old name). As recently as 1967 its profits went down by half and its stock was selling at \$6 a share, compared with its current mid-forties price. Ten years ago petroleum companies from Exxon down were moving into fertilizers as a growth industry to use their raw material gas, only to sell their newly acquired facilities for a song at the bottom of the market. New names have appeared on the international horizon such as the privately held Gardiner, and the stock market quotations of new or little known names such as Baker Industries, First Mississippi, Terra Chemicals, Williams Companies, and Texagulf have risen high.

But as almost 80 per cent of the phosphate rock is made in the United States, Morocco and the Soviet Union, thus contributing to a price oligopoly and the cause of political conditions and the economics of developing countries, Phosmarket does not think that history will repeat itself in the old boom or bust fashion.

Phosmarket indicates a complete reversal of the 1975 projections made by American, British and other national and international organizations and research bodies. Also Phosmarket is at variance with the forecasts for 1976-77. Shortages have been predicted by all known studies and reports, and surpluses by Phosmarket. The long-range rock and fertilizer forecasts (1983) are lower but not far off the projections by such organizations as the United Nations, the EEC, the British Sulphur Corporation and ISMA, but are more distant from the continuous shortages to 1981 forecast by the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Demand for phosphorus

large-scale imports of mineral raw materials, as well as for the disposal of solid wastes.

In this situation there is a strong case for importing intermediate materials which require relatively simple processing to yield finished fertilizers. The first tentative steps in this direction have been taken by Hungary, a wholly landlocked country, which has signed a series of long-term contracts to import triple superphosphate and ammonium phosphate from the United States, Yugoslavia, Poland, and Czechoslovakia have contracted to import Moroccan phosphoric acid to meet a small proportion of their new phosphate requirements. Despite these developments, phosphate rock will remain the principal raw material for European fertilizer manufacture up to 1980, by which time an additional four million to five million tonnes will have to be secured from western exporters.

\$5,000m added to revenues

The desire for private enterprise monopoly profits encouraged United States producers to increase their rock prices in 1974 almost as much as the Moroccans, in a situation not unlike that of American derived petroleum products and resulting so far to about \$3,000m in phosphate rock and fertilizer windfall profits, following the standard pattern of oligopolistic competition pricing.

On a worldwide basis, an extra \$5,000m has been added to the revenues of phosphate rock producers during the past year, while world farmers and chemical users have had to pay almost twice that extra amount in order to buy the phosphorus products which they needed during the past month. While this is a small amount compared with the extra petroleum expenditures, it is significant as it affects primarily farm products.

Phosphate rock has rarely, if ever, been a case of perfect competition—one of an infinite number of sellers and buyers. It is a strange mixture of monopolistic competition, with the United States as a price leader of the supply, the Soviet Union as a silent profit-sharing partner, and Morocco (until

Tougher times for pioneers

continued from page 11

be obtained from the summary of phosphate fertilizer application rates in the accompanying table; the corresponding rate for the United Kingdom is about 60kg P₂O₅ for a hectare of agricultural land—a fairly low figure reflecting the high proportion (about 40 per cent) of grassland which receives little fertilizer in the agricultural acreage of the United Kingdom.

There remains a tremendous potential for additional fertilizer use in Eastern Europe, and the way in which this is to be supplied is now exercising the minds of the planners who are drawing up the next five-year plan—and simultaneously looking ahead to 1990.

Eastern Europe is poorly provided with coastline and ports in relation to its land area and population. This presents particular problems for the phosphate fertilizer industry which is dependent on access to the sea for

large-scale imports of mineral raw materials, as well as for the disposal of solid wastes.

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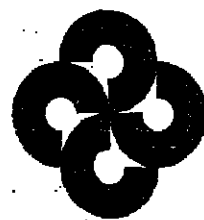
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Dr Aries was formerly an adjunct professor at the Polytechnic Institute of New York and the University of Geneva. He is now a director of several chemical manufacturing, patent and process licensing companies.

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The Great Riches of Toga-PHOSPHATE ROCK

Nationalisation of the C.T.M.B.

On Monday 4th February a very important meeting of ministers took place under the chairmanship of the Head of State, General Gnassingbe Eyadema. According to the report submitted to the press by Michel Eklo, Minister of Information, "the committee carried a motion in favour of nationalisation of the Compagnie Togolaise des Mines du Benin. By the terms of this important motion, C.T.M.B. becomes a state company whose social capital is entirely underwritten by the Togolese State; all previous arrangements to the contrary are rescinded and in particular the Treaty of September 12th 1957 drawn up by the Société Minière du Benin and the Government of the autonomous Republic of Togo". By this enactment Togolese Phosphates have become a Togolese asset. This phosphates matter has caused much ink and saliva to flow. Stories have been told and stories continue to be told but many still do not know the facts about C.T.M.B.

Of four milliard profits realised by the C.T.M.B., a few years ago, Togo received only 200 million, that is to say, a twentieth of the figure declared.

From 1957 to 1966 the Togolese state had only a 1% interest in the C.T.M.B. and our partners in no way wished to modify this state of affairs.

The Director General of the C.T.M.B., earns the "paltry" sum of 2,680,000 C.F.A. francs per month.

As for the expatriate typist in the C.T.M.B., she has a salary of not less than 500,000 C.F.A. francs, that is to say, the salary of ten management staff of Togolese nationality.

The ordinary Togolese labourer however must be content with 7,473 francs per month.

Given this state of affairs they want to corrupt with one milliard 500 million C.F.A. francs.

This powerful organisation (the C.T.M.B.) pays respect to the French technicians and engineers as well as the financial groups which are the foundation of its creation.

The C.T.M.B. undertakes to provide the Togolese State with 5% of the phosphate extracted, which will be used for the requirements of Togolese agriculture, but Togolese agriculture has never used Togolese phosphate (Treaty of September 12th, 1957).

These quotes reflect the position of the C.T.M.B. They indicate the degree of exploitation exercised by the C.T.M.B. over Togo:

History of the C.T.M.B.

Prior to the founding of the board of mines 1955, since 1884 Togo had been overrun by geologists and German prospectors (1884-1914), subsequently by English geologists (1914-1920) and then by French prospectors (1920-1953). Moreover, the existence of phosphate in lower-Togo had been known since the 19th century. Nevertheless, only from 1952 onwards did systematic exploration really begin.

La Compagnie des Phosphates de L'Afrique du Nord, which obtained authorisation, found some very interesting prospects in lower-Togo. In accordance to the mining tale of 1927, the result was the founding in 1955 of the Société Minière du Benin with a capital of fifty million C.F.A. francs, later extended to 100 million.

This new company is no more than an offshoot of the Company of La Compagnie des Phosphates de L'Afrique du Nord. Also, all the concessions of the former company have simply been transferred to the new company after the new company had obtained permission to continue the exploration for materials of the third category in an area of 10,720 H.A. (hectares).

The first indications discovered by the company are situated at Akoumpe, 30 kilometres from the sea. It is the naissant Société Minière du Benin which, on 12th September 1957 took the name of the C.T.M.B. (Compagnie Togolaise des Mines du Benin). Thereafter, there was a succession of three companies which were all, in fact, dependent on the same people; to wit the private partners of La Compagnie des Phosphates de L'Afrique du Nord. They are, therefore, the same partners, the majority of whom are French, who signed the renowned Treaty of 12th September 1957 with the autonomous Government of the Republic of Togo (non-independent). The Prime Minister of the time had double citizenship and moreover considered himself more French than Togolese. In fact after his total abolition from power he became, at Abidjan, President of the Association of the Ivory Coast French. His Government comprises of men similar to himself. The day on which the Treaty was signed, the autonomous Government was representing Togolese interests. There were in all, eight ministers in addition to the Prime Minister. Four of them were pure-blooded Frenchmen and among these was the Minister of Mining, Monsieur Christoph Tahakaloff; three others and the Prime Minister, were naturalised French and only one was Togolese. It was of this situation that General Eyadema was speaking when he said "who signed this Treaty?—it was a question of Frenchmen who were Ministers here under the autonomous Republic of Togo who signed it with their French brothers with private interests."

Moreover, nothing should surprise us today (£78) when we realise that since 1957 Togo received only 1% of the profits realised by the C.T.M.B. They are the alms which are conferred on the owner, having taken away that which belongs to him. The exploration works were terminated in 1958 and 1959. The company moved on to install the



H. E. GENERAL GNASSINGBE EYADEMA
President of the Republic of Togo
and President and founder of the R.P.T.

means of production. Effective extraction of phosphate did not begin until 1960 and the first export of phosphate by the C.T.M.B. was dated 1961. There were exports prior to this date; but they were of the order of 8 to 10 KG and were used only for chemical analysis and processing tests, known as technological tests.

Production Table

1961	..	56,932 Tonnes	1968	..	1,374,000 Tonnes
1962	..	300,000 Tonnes	1969	..	1,472,682 Tonnes
1963	..	600,000 Tonnes	1970	..	1,508,000 Tonnes
1964	..	700,000 Tonnes	1971	..	1,800,000 Tonnes
1965	..	973,635 Tonnes	1972	..	1,927,604 Tonnes
1966	..	1,145,574 Tonnes	1973	..	2,100,000 Tonnes
1967	..	1,139,396 Tonnes			

It is estimated that the Company would produce 2,400,000 tonnes of phosphates for 1974.

Togolese phosphates would have made the C.T.M.B. a profit of almost 52 milliard C.F.A. francs between 1961 and today.

Normally the head quarters of the C.T.M.B. would be situated in Togo. But in fact they are in Paris, along with the management. The major decisions are taken by the board of directors.

Structural Organisation of the C.T.M.B.

Board of Directors	Administrative Director
Administrative Delegate	Works Director
Managing Director	Technical Director
Financial Director	

Among all these directors, only the works director is resident in Togo, all the others being in Paris. At Kpeme where the offices, the factory and the city are situated, there is also an administrative department on which the laboratory and the education centre are dependent. The works department comprises two sub-divisions, one

at Hahotoe and the other at Kpogame, then there is the department of mineral enrichment with four chains, an electro-mechanical department which provides the energy vital to the treatment of the mineral and the maritime department responsible for onloadings.

At the moment the Company is mining two seams/stone-pit/quarry one at Hahotoe, the other at Kpogame. The two seams are situated one on either side of the River Haho. They are linked/relayed to Kpeme (the treatment factory) by a 30 kilometre railway.

The Working and Treatment of the Phosphate

In order to extract the phosphate the layer of top soil must be removed; the thickness varies between 20 and 30 metres. This is done by hoe-shovels or by scoops with a capacity for reaching down 12 metres at a time and an hourly capacity of 1,000 M3. After the top soil the scoops attack the phosphate at a rate of 150 M3 per hour.

The bed of phosphate is 3A6 metres thick and the phosphate extracted from the mine is transported to lorries by means of a conveyor belt. A train comprised 30 trucks transports the phosphate to Kpeme where it is offloaded onto a pier. With a capacity for 24 tonnes each, the trucks open laterally and discharge the phosphate onto the pier. From the pier the phosphate goes along a conveyor belt divided into 10 tracks. It is then led into silos for homogenisation. From the silos the phosphate goes to be cleaned. Having been sifted it is taken to the cleansing station, where sea water is pumped into it and it undergoes a systematic cleansing. Then follows the cutting stage where the phosphate is separated from the other grains (the structure of phosphate is between 3mm and 40 microns). Once this cutting is complete the phosphate is centrifugally dried. Here, the chlorine content brought about by the sea water, is eliminated by sprinkling it with fire water. The phosphate then passes on to the drying oven. Once it is dry, it is again sifted, then screened by an electro-magnetic separator which eliminates the iron and aluminium. At this state the mineral considered enriched and purified, and still by means of conveyor belt it is sent to storage sheds; one shed can hold as much as 165,0 tonnes of mineral. The stock to be sold leaves the shed for onloading. At the end of the various treatments which the phosphate undergoes it is qualified as 79, 80, 81 or 82 per cent tricalcium phosphate; one of the best quality phosphates in the world.

Commercial Geography

For 1972, 90 million tonnes of phosphates were produced in world.

The main resources are:

	8 million tonnes
U.S.A.	37
U.S.S.R.	27
Morocco	14.5
Tunisia	3.5
The Christmas Isles, Ocean and Nauru	2.9
China	2.6
Togo	1.9
Middle East	1.5
Senegal	1.4
Algeria	0.6

Exporters have placed Togo 6th amongst phosphates exporters. After a unusually high output in 1965 due to the brutal increase American output, from 1970 a certain scarcity has been prevalent which explains the increase in price of the mineral.

According to the quality the price varies between 2,600 and 3 C.F.A. francs per tonne, but as from 1973, due to Morocco and scarcity being a contributing factor, the price has tripled and today phosphorus is sold at 9,650 C.F.A. francs per tonne.

Until January 1974 Togolese phosphate has been commercialised by UPHA (Union des Phosphates Africains) an organisation which deals with all the Togolese and Senegalese phosphate. 52% Togolese phosphate is sold in Europe, 30% in Japan, and 18% the United States. The recipient countries are as follows:

Europe: France		
Denmark		
Germany		
Spain		
America		
Far East: J. C.		

Phosphates whose content is less than 65% tricalcium phosphate, often processed on the spot beside the deposit. On the other hand high grade phosphates, like those of Togo, are greatly sought for the production of phosphoric acid and are processed elsewhere in phosphate extraction plants. However, Togolese phosphorus foresees a project for on the spot processing, since the processing raw materials on the site of production is a valid economic

A Statement by THE REPUBLIC OF TOGO

Phosphate pier in Togo



Phosphate factory in Togo



THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS



Government plan pay groups r loss of North sea revenue

By Viorrey Correspondent

Companies which accede to government claims for 51 per cent participation in their oil and gas fields are to be reimbursed for tax revenue they could expect had the field been entirely under their control.

The Government's thinking on terms for oil and gas fields is outlined in a paper by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr. Peter Rogers, which is being circulated to companies with substantial holdings last. The payments, equivalent to the post-tax revenues of a 51 per cent share, will be made from the North Sea Revenue Account.

On this theme have been ruminating for some time the differing situations of companies operating in the North Sea.

Companies containing these terms were presented to representatives of British, French, Dutch and German companies last week. The next week or so, her companies will be into these, early talks on the proposals have been held within the Government.

The Government's detailed bargaining to act that the Government is forced to make its proposals to the companies at first sight appear to be generous and lenient. The statements by a number of ministers in the past few months that the Government is not going to involve the companies in the financial losses of the oil and gas fields.

Mr. Rogers said that should be surprised that the Government is not going to involve the companies in the financial losses of the oil and gas fields.

Warning on cartels Mr Richardson

May 26.—Mr Gordon, Governor of the Bank of England, gave a warning today that the oil companies' example could encourage other groups to form cartels.

Mr. Richardson, executive director of the Bank of England, said the danger of a flood of cartels was a real possibility.

He told the seminar that banks have emerged from the trials of 1974 stronger than before, having strengthened their internal disciplines. Official banking supervision has been intensified.

At the same time, he said, there were signs that oil exporting countries were now using a wider circle of banks. They were placing deposits at rather longer terms, as well as greater extent through medium-term lending direct to governments and through investment in foreign and international bonds.

Focus on Japan car imports

May 26.—Mr Toshio, managing director of the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association, is likely to discuss with British industry representatives the rising imports of Japanese cars into Britain.

Mr. Toshio said that the Japanese car makers' conference in London was in Paris for the

Exhibition Centre manager resigns

By Clifford Webb

A boardroom dispute which has been simmering in private for some months broke into the open last night with the resignation of Mr. Richard Cunningham, general manager of Birmingham's £25m National Exhibition Centre project.

It is the second resignation within two months. On March 26, Mr. Frank Cole, founder chairman of the National Exhibition Centre Company, and one of the project's earlier supporters, announced his resignation from the chair and the board.

At the time he denied that the break resulted from a boardroom row. He said he had found that he could no longer support the increasing time required.

Now Mr. Cunningham's resignation, after only 11 months with the NEC, strengthens recent rumours that the smooth run-up to the opening of Britain's first national exhibition centre is being threatened by boardroom dissension.

Mr. Cunningham, who is 38, was formerly managing director of British Exhibitions, a company specialising in the organization of exhibitions and trade fairs. He was chosen from a long list of applicants for the £10,000-a-year job as chief executive of the NEC.

An official statement from the company last night confirmed that he had resigned. His duties will be shared by Mr. Robert Booth, the director of Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce, who also doubles as chairman of the NEC, and Mr. Francis Graves, project controller.

When the Prime Minister visited the site a few weeks ago he was told that the work was running ahead of schedule. The opening is provisionally set for next February and it has been reported that the Queen will perform the opening ceremony.

Bank rejects FHA funding scheme

By Christopher Wilkins Banking Correspondent

Finance Houses Association efforts to obtain Bank of England support for a scheme to raise money for medium-term funds to some finance houses have failed.

The FHA had approached it with a proposal that the Bank should lend its backing to issues of negotiable loans by individual houses which have encountered difficulties raising funds in recent months and have been forced to depend upon the support operation of the Bank and the clearing.

The Bank is believed to be broadly sympathetic towards the FHA's objectives, and alternative solutions to the funding problem are still being explored. Nevertheless it has rejected the FHA's suggestion for various technical reasons.

Most finance houses recognize that the process of restoring general depositor confidence must involve some internal restructuring so that typical loans of two or three-year maturities can be seen to be backed by more closely deposited or borrowed funds than they have in the past.

It has been hard enough for independent houses to generate even short-term deposits, let alone anything longer, however, and the FHA has evidently concluded that it would be unable to sell medium-term negotiable loan instruments to the public without outside support.

The FHA approached the Bank to discuss the possibility of finance house loan stocks being classified as eligible for discount at the Bank, which would have made them highly attractive instruments to investors.

But while the Bank is as eager as anybody to see the houses refunding, the proposal raised difficulties which have proved insurmountable. One was that the FHA was in search of two or three-year funds while the sort of bills eligible for discount at the Bank are of much shorter maturity.

A further problem would have arisen if finance house paper was to have been accepted as eligible by the Bank while clearing banks continued to be denied the same facility.

Spheres of interest defined for actuaries

By Margaret Stone

Actuaries' first responsibility is to policyholders, the actuarial profession and the Department of Trade, rather than to the directors of the company which employs them, according to new guidelines, published today.

A committee set up jointly by the Institute of Actuaries and the Scottish counterpart, the Faculty of Actuaries, has been examining the role of the actuary in long-term, or life insurance business for nearly a year.

There is nothing specifically new in the committee's report. But the guide does make plain a number of matters "which in the past may have been implicit rather than explicit." The guide, however, is to be seen as providing an operating framework for actuaries and failure to comply with it "will be regarded as prima facie evidence" of unprofessional conduct.

The necessity for more tightly defined rules has been highlighted by the upheavals which have shaken the insurance sector in the past 18 months. There have been several failures or near-failures among insurance companies and only recently the Institute took the unprecedented step of suspending one of its members.

It is, however, likely that without such a backing, the profession would not have been moved to conduct this investigation into its role. The present guidelines would not have been considered necessary—or, in some instances even relevant—only a few years ago.

The report is primarily based on the Insurance Companies Act, 1974, and the regulations it lays down for actuaries, who have to provide quarterly actuarial certificates as to the financial soundness of the company's long-term insurance business.

Getting down to basics the new guidelines indicate that before taking up an appointment with a company, an actuary should discover from his predecessor "whether there are any professional reasons why he should not accept the appointment." Having taken up the job, the actuary must have "a right of direct access to the board" which must be made explicit from the outset.

The guideline acknowledges the many masters of the actuary, who has a duty to his profession with which his responsibility to his principal must be consistent. In addition he has direct responsibilities and obligations to the Department of Trade arising from the DoT's supervisory functions; with his job, the responsibility to the DoT is stronger.

Another element in the actuary's role which is clearly spelt out for the first time, is that the actuary has an ongoing responsibility to be satisfied "at all times" as to the financial condition of the office, not merely at the specific intervals laid down by the law. This clause is primarily aimed at consulting actuaries.

The guide provides a detailed framework upon which the actuary should base his judgment about the financial soundness of the company. These range from the premium rates; the nature of contracts; type of investments; marketing and expenditure and of course the relationship between assets and liabilities.

It is also precise in defining just where the actuary's responsibility stops. It is the directors of the company who have and cannot avoid responsibility for the conduct of the company's business. It is up to the actuary to monitor that conduct; not create it.

Co-operative Union submits case for state-aided expansion

By Maurice Corina

Provision of public capital for both new and existing Co-op stores would be valid as the movement acted for consumers and not solely in pursuit of profit.

He said that the development agency, would assist an independent socially responsible sector of the economy. It would go beyond present retail activities to embrace other forms and newer types of Co-operative enterprise. Delegates took this as a reference to Mr. Anthony Wedgwood-Benn's worker cooperative.

Mr. Perry said the Co-op saw grants and loans being granted according to agreed criteria. These would cover provision of financial aid and advice to new societies, or the conversion of limited companies to co-operatives. He also said the agency and its money ought to help promote mergers among retail societies as well as supporting technical improvements of existing Co-ops.

State funds could also go into protecting services provided in outlying rural areas and in new towns. Research into development and training needs could also be supported.

While there had to be monitoring of funds vested by the state in this way, interference in day-to-day management



Lord Aldington: Discussions with major shareholders.

Citibank to raise stake in Grindlays

By Our Financial Staff

Grindlays Bank is today expected to reveal details of the first part of its capital reconstruction, following the £14m loss provisions announced last month by Brandts, its merchant banking subsidiary.

Initially, the package is expected to entail an injection of capital by First National City Bank, which will increase its New York-based bank's shareholding in Grindlays from 40 to 49 per cent.

The second part of the package, which might not follow for several weeks, will involve raising funds from other sources. Details have still to be worked out, but the most likely outcome will be a rights issue by National and Grindlays Holdings, which at present controls 60 per cent of Grindlays, or an issue of loan stock, or a combination of both.

Lord Aldington, Grindlays' chairman, has indicated that he is hoping to raise a total of between £15m and £30m.

Discussions have been taking place between Grindlays and its major shareholders, Citibank and Lloyds Bank, which has a 42 per cent stake in National & Grindlays Holdings, for some time.

Citibank is reported to have made it clear it would not be prepared to put up new funds without an increase in its shareholding. It is expected to seek new representation at senior level on the board.

Lloyds is believed to have been unhappy at the prospect of Citibank acquiring 49 per cent of Grindlays.

BETA cites slow-paying councils

By Kenneth Owen

The Business Equipment Trade Association has warned its members against local authorities who have failed to pay for goods supplied, and insisted on extended delays in deliveries.

Writing in the association's newsletter, BETA News, Mr. Richard Harrington, director-general, says that different member companies have complained to the association about the "extreme difficulty" they are having in obtaining payment for goods supplied to some local authorities.

"From the information they have given," he continues, "it would appear that some authorities are continuing to order goods, knowing full well they do not at the time have the funds available to pay for them. They are then accepting the goods and using various pretexts to delay payment."

The director-general warns BETA members to be on their guard against such authorities, and advises companies which are suffering from this to instruct their solicitors with a view to instituting proceedings for the recovery of money outstanding.

"Whilst some local authorities are, not surprisingly, having difficulty in collecting

National Savings gained almost £16m in April

By Tim Congdon

National Savings benefited from a net inflow of £15.9m in the four weeks ending April 26, according to figures released yesterday by the National Savings Committee. After adding accrued interest of £28.4m, the amount remaining invested increased by £44.3m.

This represents an increase in new savings as compared with the same period of 1974. In April last year, net disavowing amounted to £6.6m.

The National Savings Committee notes that the relative competitiveness of National Savings has improved with the general easing of interest rates in the fixed-interest market and refers particularly to the better performance by British Savings Bonds and by the investment departments of the National Savings Bank and the Trustee Savings Banks.

National Savings have traditionally experienced a strong inflow of funds after large increases in personal disposable income, such as those caused by the recent wage explosion.

However, the present increase in savings seems to have been dominated by the building societies to an unusual degree and National Savings have not been building up funds on the same scale as in 1972 and 1973.

CEI meets this week to finalize new structure

By Derek Harris

A special meeting of the Council of Engineering Institutions will be held on Thursday in a move to end the 10-month controversy over the structure of the engineering profession.

The CEI, umbrella body for 15 chartered engineering organizations, has been the centre of the controversy since its federal structure was attacked last August by its three senior members, the Institution of Civil Engineers, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and the Institution of Electrical Engineers. Particular criticism centred on its lack of decisiveness.

While the Mechanicals have now largely accepted the CEI's latest restructuring proposals, in which direct elections change the federal structure—a major questionmark still hangs over whether the two other senior bodies will give their support.

A major issue at the meeting would centre on what role, if any, in the reorganized CEI should be played by members of non-chartered bodies—of which there are more than 30—especially technician engineers.

Earlier CEI suggestions for giving some voting power to technician engineers brought strong reactions from the three senior bodies. There were fears that this would dilute the status of the chartered engineers—regarded as the second tier of the profession—would virtually take over CEI.

CEI present thinking has been that non-chartered organizations, including those representing technician engineers, would under certain conditions have the option to become affiliates. Members of those organizations, reaching requisite chartered engineering standards, would then, as individuals, have a route into the chartered club.

If the 15 chartered bodies are unanimous in giving broad support to the CEI restructuring proposals, the reconstituted body could officially come into being in July.

French acquire 9.5pc share in Honeywell-Bull

Paris, May 26.—A decree published in the Official Journal today authorizes the government to acquire a 9.5 per cent interest in the 1,046m-franc capital of Compagnie Honeywell-Bull. Of the total capital 66 per cent is already owned by Honeywell Incorporated of America.

The move results from last week's decision to merge Cie Internationale pour l'Informatique (CII), the French computer group, with Honeywell-Bull.

Under the plan, the government and private French interests will acquire a total 19 per cent of Honeywell's share—reported to be 560m (about £26m).

Together with 34 per cent of the company currently held by Cie des Machines Bull, French interests will own 53 per cent of the merged concern, to be called CII-Honeywell-Bull.

Meanwhile, Mr. Robert Guest was appointed president director-general of CII, following the resignation of M. Michel Barry who opposed the merger.—AP, Dow Jones.

Search in determined search for accord on gold

The Treasury appears to believe that unless agreements are made now they will not be made before next year, which explains why the United States will be surviving in informal talks around the OECD meeting this week.

Mr. Bennett, explaining where the main differences lie, indicated that the strongest opponent of the United States position was France.

He said the United States still insists on a transitional period to phase out gold from the monetary system, with possibly agreement on a promise to review in-depth the transitional agreements after two years.

The French basically still seem to want an immediate and total restriction on central banks buying as well as selling gold.

Resolving the gold question is essential for agreement on increases in IMF membership quotas. Mr. Bennett felt that there had been agreements in principle that the slowdown of

United States in a position of being able to block decisions even if it took a quota percentage reduction to 19.5 per cent.

In the light of this suggestion the United States might agree to take a quota of less than 22.42 per cent, but would not agree to as little as 19.5 per cent.

Inflation ending: A prediction that the American economy was now in "the turning zone" towards solid recovery was given here yesterday by Dr. Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Dr. Burns, head of the nation's independent Central Banking System, returned criticism that the Fed has been the villain in the recession by its inept handling of the money supply.

He quoted even the most optimistic of the President's economic advisers in predicting a second-half gross national product growth of more than 5 per cent.

"Thanks to some very sturdy performances..."

Points from Mr. Robin Martin's statement:

- ☐ "Very sturdy performances" in a difficult year raised 1974 profits to £17.8 million
- ☐ Earnings per share maintained
- ☐ Year's dividend up by 12½%
- ☐ Improved overseas performance
- ☐ Revaluation of assets discloses £20 million surplus
- ☐ Net tangible assets per share up from 70p to 138p

Tarmac

Copies of the Chairman's statement with the 1974 Report and Accounts are available from: The Registrar, Tarmac Limited, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton WV4 6JP. Telephone: 0902-41101-Ext. 263.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Looking beyond the Referendum

Just after the Budget I suggested that while equities were capable of going still higher the market was moving into new and possibly unsound territory. Since then the market has indeed gone better on the conviction there will be a "yes" vote at the referendum and that soon after the Government will act to either revive or produce a successor to the social contract and at the same time take more positive steps to cut public spending.

Evidence now suggests that Government strategy will be more gradualist than abrupt. So, while there may be some pre-referendum froth left in the market this week, a period in the doldrums may follow June 5. From then on investors should be watching not only the domestic economic and political scene, but also that in America.

Remember that the Chancellor's Budget was looking firmly to a 1976 revival in world trade. That in turn depends on whether American hopes of starting to pulling their economy out of recession in the final quarter of this year materialize. Evidence piling up now points to the United States recession being more drawn out than this, and that sort of view must ultimately have a bearing on what happens to the London market this summer.

Bankruptcy law Moves toward reform

Lawyers and accountants appear to be making common cause in favour of some reform of the law as it affects receiverships in this country. Both favour the legal enableness of a moratorium where this could prevent the trauma of a full liquidation. Given the economic situation and the rising rate of company failures, the subject is obviously topical, as were the reforms in the bankruptcy laws advocated recently by Justice.

The Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry—representing barristers employed in industry and commerce—made reference to "receivership and the illiquid problem" in its report on company law reform published last week.

Our experience as advisers of trade creditor companies, said the association's working party, "leads us to believe that there is a case for an overhaul of the law relating to the activities of receivers and over again we have found that when a receiver is appointed in a situation of illiquidity (as opposed to real insolvency) the result is a rapid deterioration. The secured creditors are paid because all the easily realizable assets are taken to pay them) whereas the unsecured creditors are left with assets whose value has shrunk to almost nothing."

"We think that the system in operation in Germany to deal with this kind of illiquid situation by a species of moratorium would well repay study. We urge a future government to consider the problem very seriously. Often the illiquid secured and all creditors receive payment in full."

On the subject of moratoria, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales would broadly agree with the Bar Association. It appears to have made similar recommendations in its recent submission to the EEC Insolvency Convention. But there are numerous obstacles in the way of such solutions in this country at present. First should the major creditors of a company favour granting a moratorium, to ensure an orderly and favourable realization of assets



Mr. Humphrey Oliver, chairman of the Finance Houses Association: a rebuff from the Bank must have been half-expected.

or a restoration of normal trading, they will often have difficulty persuading the smaller creditors to go along. If those small creditors represent large sums in aggregate they can easily rock the boat. Arguably, the only way in which the large creditors can prevent this is by paying off the smaller ones, or at least by holding out the hope of a favourable settlement eventually.

Even more intractable, as the law stands at present, is the problem of directors' liability under section 32 of the Companies Act which rules against trading while insolvent. Creditors can persuade directors to carry on trading under the shadow of insolvency but the question of a legal dispensation to do so is clearly quite different and one which accountants as well as lawyers feel might be met by the enactment of a moratorium in law.

However, accountants oppose the principle of a moratorium being carried out under the supervision of the courts, as apparently is the case in Germany. The objection of receivers here to this is that it allows creditors to obtain in the courts "attachments" over assets, regardless of the national status of the creditor in relation to others. Thus, the case is quoted of a British receiver in Germany with goods hypothecated to him by a bank he represented and which held bills of exchange against the goods. The receiver obtained an attachment over the goods and thus effectively leapfrogged over the secured creditor.

There is also the desire to avoid encouraging court creditors' claims under the "sniff out" creditors and act for them, presumably on a contingency basis where they take a part of the realization to the client. Such practices are not unknown in the United States. Receivers here, moreover, do not readily accept the view that the receiver will not generally try hard to save something for the creditors. Strictly, the receiver has no duty to them and is in breach of his duty even to pay the postage on communications with them.

What German law does appear to offer of possible interest to this country is a special provision for the avoidance of bankruptcy. And, as German law makes no distinction between bankruptcies and receiverships, this applies as much to companies as to individuals. Under the "Vergleichsordnung" (1935) an application can be made by a debtor to the courts in charge (provided no bankruptcy proceedings have been begun) to enable him to continue trading under the supervision of a special administrator. Among other things he must be able to guarantee 35 per cent of all claims and grant equal rights to

all creditors. The general Bankruptcy Act (Konkursordnung) in Germany does not allow a company to continue trading, however.

The Government is currently being urged by one of the leading life offices to consider a review of liquidation procedures applying to the life offices—as an alternative to the provisions of the Policyholders' Protection Bill—and the time might be opportune to widen the debate to embrace companies generally.

Finance Houses If the Bank can't help...

It is one thing for the Bank of England to sympathize with finance house aspirations to raise medium-term funds, and quite another for it to bend all the established rules and put its own name underneath a house's issue. So the Finance Houses Association must have stepped up to propose that this was what the Bank should do. For all that, it is not hard to see the Bank's logic in making the approach, even though some of its weightier members disapproved.

The question at issue is no longer whether there will continue to be an independent finance house sector. The clearing bank/Bank of England rescue operation is fully committed to ensuring that there is, even though one or two smaller institutions may still have to go. The question is how long it will take the independent houses to free themselves of dependence on the "lifeboat" committee and what measures they must take to satisfy the public that they are again relatively risk-free as homes for deposits.

Improved information flows will help, but it is clear, too, that some fundamental restructuring is required. In part, this must involve a rigorous pruning of all interests peripheral to instalment credit, a process already underway, but one which will take time. Secondly, the FHA believes it must involve a lessening of dependence on volatile short-term money market deposits and the building up of medium-term funds.

However, one has a classic chicken and egg situation. The houses need medium-term funds under their belts to show the world they are worthy of confidence, yet until they have got that confidence they cannot raise the medium-term funds they need. The only solution, it is argued, is that in the first instance the repayment of the medium-term deposits placed with the houses must be underwritten by an institution whose ability to repay cannot be in doubt. Hence, the approach to the Bank. Thereafter, it is hoped, the combination of a general return to profitability by the houses and the strengthening of balance-sheet structures should enable them to stand on their own feet.

Whether the Bank is the appropriate institution to lend this support is a source of contention within the FHA. As the Bank's response has been demonstrated, there are serious limitations to what it can do, even with the greatest of willingness.

An alternative school of thought is that the initiative should come from the lifeboat committee itself. On this view, the lifeboat is locked in for a long haul anyway and would be acting with enlightened self-interest if it were to convert some of its short-term deposits into a two or three-year basis. That could hardly involve a longer commitment than the lifeboat presently faces and in the meantime would help the industry to stand on its own again.

Smartly hatted and gloved, Eva Dodds yesterday looked every inch some elegant regular of a fashionable London store, nourished on the carriage trade.

As the first female president of the annual Co-op Congress for 53 years, she did not lose the opportunity to explain why the movement claims her loyalties. She said all the right things at the opening session in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh. Yet references to women's rights, consumer power, profound quotations, and the traditional remarks about the admittedly astonishing scale of Co-op trading activities could not obscure her concluding appeal, in the presidential address, for a professionally devised national strategy to ensure the future of what she called "the co-operative democracy."

Mrs Dodds did not spell out what that strategy should be, which was tactful when in the next few days delegates from 233 retail co-operative societies could rebel against their central executive. These societies, with a combined turnover of £1,700m last year, are independent but belong to the British Co-operative Union, whose future is now in doubt.

It is the union, with congress authority, that has been seeking to regroup the societies into about 25 big regional enterprises. They also own the powerful Co-operative Wholesale Society, the movement's main bank, supplier, and manufacturer.

Rebellion is threatened because the CWS, in whose boardroom Mrs Dodds sits, now dominates the union's central executive, which this week wants the retail societies to set up a special committee as a prelude to merging their national union with the CWS to form an as yet unspecified single federal organization. First reactions from the "grass roots"—the local, neighbourhood retail co-ops that battle for survival in the High Streets—appear to be hostile.

There are suspicions that the CWS leadership, egged on by

its professional management, wants to steamroll over their cherished independence to make the path easier towards national control from factory to shop. The average retail society, under the control of its member-shoppers, concedes, readily enough that the CWS has effectively wrought some necessary changes.

The CWS has given strong leadership on trade reforms, helped smarten up shops, and organized buying on a more national scale. The wholesale society thought up the now-familiar uniform blue-and-white Co-op logo, improved quality control on house brands, launched cash stamps to replace expensive dividend systems, and much more. Some 200 new Co-op freezer food centres demonstrate a new willingness to innovate in a way not seen since the movement pioneered self-service shops as early as the 1940s.

In the process of pushing through these and other changes, the CWS has re-emerged as a powerful business institution. Its banking operation shortly gains clearing bank status. The insurance society has even annexed Mr Harry Hyman's property empire. The counterpart Scottish CWS has collapsed into its waiting arms—and with it came voting control on the central executive of the Co-op Union.

But above all the CWS, in spite of many mistakes (the worst being an unwieldy and too large board afraid to challenge those mistakes), has demonstrated the virtues of more unity in Co-op trading systems and rules and promises have markedly improved, if nowhere near the levels promised by the reformers in the 1960s.

Ironically, the considerable success in winning back shoppers has boosted the confidence of the CWS and makes it possible for them to reassert themselves at this year's congress. The CWS leaders face, as a consequence, an unexpected test of wills as they seek to persuade the delegates—through the central

executive—that another constitutional upheaval is required, at some possible cost to the retail democracy which distinguishes the Co-op from other shops.

Mr Arthur Sugden, CWS chief executive, understands the potential conflict between his requirement for more national planning and the movement's deeply rooted local retail structure. Last year, he excited the activists among the movement's 12 million members by suggesting one way in which structure might be remodelled. His idea was that the CWS might be reshaped to take over trading operations clearly suited to nationally organized chains and CWS skills. Neighbourhood societies would then specialize in the business they can run well under local shoppers' control, but drawing on the profits from separately run national operations.

After the excitement, all

chairman wants an integrated national organization to follow Swedish lines. He says: "The alternative to the present loose structure of the movement and the present tendency of the various organizations and bodies composing our movement to go off at tangents, makes nonsense of our claim to call ourselves a co-operative movement."

It seems sound sense to the outsider. But more than a few retail societies say a fancy structure and promises are no substitute for the hard slog of local retail management close to their customers. Mr Ron Edmondson, able chief executive of Ipswich Society, for example, suggests it would be more dynamic if delegates "up round" the corner and take another look at that scruffy old "grocery" branch. That sounds very sensible, too.

Whoever is right or wrong, the Co-op needs this week's debate about future structure. This policy-making conference, the 196th, will obviously vanish if some within the CWS get their way. The fact of the union, where managers and lay co-operators presently participate together, will surely depend on whether delegates demonstrate its value with a fair and open exchange of their ideas. Those who run the CWS these days may have forgotten that their own internal reforms were originally derived from a grass-roots rebellion that began within the union.

They feel the CWS is in danger of becoming an insensitive self-perpetuating management bureaucracy that finds democratic control inconvenient, then they can say so now. No one can blame the CWS for questioning the merits of their ideas. Some say the case for constitutional upheaval may be strong, but that it should wait. The reason is that once again the Co-op may be facing short-term problems. Inflation looks like severely testing past reforms, many half-completed (such as mergers into regional societies).

Results for last year are persuasive evidence that the Co-op has done better. The index from Nielsen research unit recently said that Co-op gro bested the multiples with 1974 sales results and rega their share of nearly 14 cent in this sector of retail. Overall trade results have good.

Some typical returns of increases are North Mid (up 37 per cent), Harrogate (47 per cent) and the Rands, Northants (up 34 per cent). The big boys—Loi Royal Arsenal, CRS, and Sea Island—produced handsome figures, too.

Yet there has to be a about whether all this can continue as inflation ram from manufacturing into ing. Liquidity problems beginning to return—and a few weeks back one society, Birkenhead, had rescued by Eva Dodds's ally, run Co-operative Services Ltd (in which the has a one-third share), r less of the regional soc plan. The CWS's own have fallen for the first for some years.

Integrated or not, the and the CWS face a per strained cash flows and shortages, holding back redevelopment schemes, bad retail society failure movement's recurring more could produce a n run on capital even thou people's money is safe en

In such a situation Co-op, like private ente may have to turn to Mr wood Benn. The Secret State for industry is a working on Labour's e pledge so set up a Co-op Development Agency w payer funds. After mor 100 years of voluntary idon mid-alcoomers, the may yet turn to the st money. It would be no historic decision than ing the Co-operative Uni

Maurice C

In pursuit of a national strategy for preserving Co-operative democracy



Mr. Arthur Sugden: restructuring suggestion.

What has happened is that the CWS has come to the annual congress, as a member of the union, supporting a vague plan for a new federal organization, which would appear to be the CWS Mark II bent on forcing through its two ideas free from present democratic sanctions (such as mergers into regional societies).

Mr. Lloyd Harrison, CWS

Giving teeth to energy agency through a test run of oil-sharing procedures

As the second anniversary of the 1973-74 oil supply crisis rolls nearer, 32 of the world's largest oil companies are planning to mark the occasion by simulating yet another substantial cutback in oil supplies. Most of the companies would be more than happy to forget the crisis but they will be staging a new campaign and production cutback situation at the request of the International Energy Agency (IEA) to test the efficiency of the organization's emergency oil sharing scheme.

The IEA was set up six months ago largely as a response to the Arab decision to cut off oil supplies to the Americans and restrict deliveries to most other major industrial customers during the Arab-Israeli war of 1973. Its immediate objective has been to devise a method of sharing available oil supplies among its 18 members should supplies ever be interrupted in the future.

The fact that the IEA feels able to flex its muscles for the first time with a demonstration of physical strength is a measure of its confidence within the organization that it will be able to fulfill its role in any new emergency and in the longer term will be able to provide the basis for coordinating the development of existing and new energy resources.

Simulating the situation where oil supplies are for some unspecified reason cut back by more than 10 per cent is also an indicator of the way in which the IEA plans to make

use of the expertise of the international oil companies in running the emergency oil sharing scheme through its oil industry advisory board.

Not only will the companies act as agents for carrying out the IEA's emergency sharing plans but these plans themselves will be drawn up largely on the advice of the companies. Until recently the role of the advisory board was confined to giving the IEA information on how the oil industry was run throughout the world.

Anti-trust problems prevented the 10 largest American oil companies from taking an active part in organizing an oil sharing programme or taking part in a dummy run to prove the efficiency of the system. Recently, however, the United States government cleared the way for the companies to take part in all the proposed activities of the advisory board by guaranteeing them immunity from any anti-trust procedures.

The power and knowledge available through the members of the advisory board is considerable. As well as the 10 biggest United States companies, Shell and BP from Britain, ENI from Italy, Petrofina of Belgium, Veba-Gelsen of Germany and the state oil companies of Norway and Austria are cooperating with the major Japanese oil companies.

How the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) will react to their principal customers taking a more active part in the IEA emergency plans is uncertain. Since the

inception of the IEA, Opec has mounted a virulent campaign describing the agency as an "agency for confrontation".

Opec members have always known that the companies would be intimately involved in any oil sharing plan, but some Opec sources have been surprised at the degree to which the companies are prepared to become involved in the IEA's plans, even to the extent of organizing a full-scale oil sharing simulation.

The IEA's confidence seems to have fully recovered from the buffeting it received at last month's abortive attempt, in Paris to fix the agenda for a dialogue between the world's major oil producers and consumers and the Third World countries. Although the French invited the agency and Opec as observers, Opec ignored the invitation. The four oil producers invited to the meeting independently of Opec, objected to the presence of the IEA and reluctantly its members had to withdraw to the sidelines.

While it was not present physically at the deliberations, the representatives of the consumers made no secret of the fact that they were using the IEA as the organization for discussing their strategy during the conference. Producer govern-

ments' attitudes to the organization will figure highly on the agenda of the agency's first ministerial level meeting being held in Paris today.

After last month's Paris debacle, it appears that both the consumers and the producers are prepared to make concessions in order to get a world dialogue off the ground. According to British sources the inclusion of commodities on the dialogue agenda is no longer a problem and the world from the Opec camp is that it is prepared to make more accommodations. And in public statements both Dr. Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, and the Shah of Iran have provided hopeful signs that the impasse over the agenda can be overcome.

In context of the more moderate mood that is prevailing, the IEA must decide how far it will go in pressing for an invitation as an observer. Now that the agency is showing cohesion and strength, there is a growing lobby for insisting that Opec faces up to the reality of the IEA and accept it as a bona fide negotiating body. Naturally, IEA members feel that the Opec contention that it is an "agency for confrontation" has proved groundless and that confrontation will only come if the

oil producers refuse the ing nations the same r collective bargaining to enjoy.

Against this they mu up the possibility that a zealous campaign to n the IEA could weak chances of renewing t ducer / consumer / Third contacts. In the situatio most of the 18 IEA n accept that Opec is a raise prices when the month freeze on crude ends in September, t hopes that the three sid least be in some kind liminary contact bef takes the decision on much prices will rise.

Whether the French able to regain the init bringing all three parti conference table again uncertain. It was the who sent out the invita the agenda fixing co and while M Giscard d the French President, h considerable efforts to k producers and the Thir closer together, he h himself overtaken by a pressure from IEA n possibly acting out framework of the agen

Parker made Roger Vainvestment

Business Diary: The long goodbye

Anti-Marketeers who argue that Britain could leave the European Community swiftly after a "No" vote at next week's referendum will have some of the wind taken out of their sails by a signing ceremony which takes place in Brussels tomorrow and on Thursday.

The Community's six members of the European Free Trade Association will sign a series of legal documents formally abrogating parts of the free trade agreements the latter countries still have with Norway in its former capacity as a prospective EEC member state.

Indeed, it will have taken Norway, never a fully fledged EEC member, nearly three years to sever itself definitively from the Nine. It was in July, 1972, that the then proposed Community of the Ten signed the free trade agreements with the EFTA countries. This was two months before Norwegian entry to the Community was rejected by a referendum.

Part of the reason for the long delay in holding this week's signing ceremonies has been the difficulty of finding a mutually acceptable date. But it takes Norway nearly three years to cut itself off definitively from the Community, how long would it take a virtually integrated Britain?

Fakenham now

The women of Fakenham Enterprises, the tiny textile machining cooperative operating above a garage in the Norfolk village of the same name, had a more cheerful time at the Bank Holiday than at Easter. When Business Diary's Ross Davies spoke to them on Easter Monday, the women, whose

main work is subcontracting, were in trouble through a fall-off in orders. That day, the Co-operative Congress, to which they are not affiliated, unanimously asked local branches to order Fakenham leather goods to help out the 30 women. This Bank Holiday Monday, however, Ross Davies found that the women—their numbers now trimmed to 24—are back on a wage of £20 a week, and hoping soon to return to their normal £23, having at one stage dropped to £10 rather than lay off one of three of their number.

Two London clothiers are travelling down to Fakenham this week to sign promising contracts for leather jackets, and there is stronger demand for the women's staple, shoe uppers. Nancy McGrath, the women's spokesman, says that the public's reaction to the Co-operative's motion generated operative work from companies who some work from the little firm has done well. A local firm sent

in some upholstery. The London branch of the Co-operative Party chipped in with £230 to help through the worst, while the Luton CWS sent in £50 to buy leather for preparing samples.

But it has not been plain sailing. Talks broke down about the takeover of the British Shoe Corporation—probably by mutual consent—although the corporation still sends in work. David Spreckley, chairman of another co-ownership firm, despised the takeover, and withdrew from his role as part-time financial adviser when the women—after a sit-in—rejected his advice to go into liquidation. Fakenham was founded when a Norwich shoemaker went bust three years ago.

Spreckley says he can't see any substantial Co-op orders coming in, either because they can't order until the end of the year or because Asian leather goods are cheaper.

Anne Hunter, Mrs McGrath's co-director, is unwell. Two women were forced to withdraw when the pay fell, the rest of the departures being because of illness or pregnancy. It's still touch and go with the women—like any other subcontractor—subject to the hazards of delayed payments and the lapsing of unwritten contracts. Unlike other small firms, however, Fakenham Enterprises is more or less a labour force with no sales or management force. But also unlike many small firms, they're still in business.

Quiet return

George Shultz and Paul Volcker left the United States Government last summer for what

some thought would be quiet lives in business and universities, but the former Treasury Secretary and Under-Secretary for Monetary Affairs now appear to be making a quiet comeback.

As predicted by Business Diary, Volcker is now becoming president of the New York Federal Reserve bank in August. He got the job, so Wall Street rumour has it, despite strong objections by Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve System.

Volcker's new job will effectively make him the second most important man in that system and he seems determined to use the position to get back on the international monetary reform circuit. There, however, he will encounter his old boss, George Shultz.



Paul Volcker: objections.

The Treasury has quietly announced that Shultz is to join its influential advisory committee on reform of the international monetary system. The committee now appears to be looking into the operation

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Friday week price		F. E.		Company		Friday week price		F. E.	
Beard	100	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41
105	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
110	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
115	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
120	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
125	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
130	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
135	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
140	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
145	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
150	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
155	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
160	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
165	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
170	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
175	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
180	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
185	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
190	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
195	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
200	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
205	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
210	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
215	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
220	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
225	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
230	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
235	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
240	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
245	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
250	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
255	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
260	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
265	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
270	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
275	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
280	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
285	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
290	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
295	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
300	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
305	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
310	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
315	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
320	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
325	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph	75	-34	42	41	
330	4.4	3.3	127.76	Randolph					

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Index	Div.	Earnings	Change
		over	over
		year	year
NYSE	100	100	100
NYSE 30	100	100	100
NYSE 100	100	100	100
NYSE 200	100	100	100
NYSE 300	100	100	100
NYSE 400	100	100	100
NYSE 500	100	100	100
NYSE 600	100	100	100
NYSE 700	100	100	100
NYSE 800	100	100	100
NYSE 900	100	100	100
NYSE 1000	100	100	100
NYSE 1100	100	100	100
NYSE 1200	100	100	100
NYSE 1300	100	100	100
NYSE 1400	100	100	100
NYSE 1500	100	100	100
NYSE 1600	100	100	100
NYSE 1700	100	100	100
NYSE 1800	100	100	100
NYSE 1900	100	100	100
NYSE 2000	100	100	100
NYSE 2100	100	100	100
NYSE 2200	100	100	100
NYSE 2300	100	100	100
NYSE 2400	100	100	100
NYSE 2500	100	100	100
NYSE 2600	100	100	100
NYSE 2700	100	100	100
NYSE 2800	100	100	100
NYSE 2900	100	100	100
NYSE 3000	100	100	100
NYSE 3100	100	100	100
NYSE 3200	100	100	100
NYSE 3300	100	100	100
NYSE 3400	100	100	100
NYSE 3500	100	100	100
NYSE 3600	100	100	100
NYSE 3700	100	100	100
NYSE 3800	100	100	100
NYSE 3900	100	100	100
NYSE 4000	100	100	100
NYSE 4100	100	100	100
NYSE 4200	100	100	100
NYSE 4300	100	100	100
NYSE 4400	100	100	100
NYSE 4500	100	100	100
NYSE 4600	100	100	100
NYSE 4700	100	100	100
NYSE 4800	100	100	100
NYSE 4900	100	100	100
NYSE 5000	100	100	100
NYSE 5100	100	100	100
NYSE 5200	100	100	100
NYSE 5300	100	100	100
NYSE 5400	100	100	100
NYSE 5500	100	100	100
NYSE 5600	100	100	100
NYSE 5700	100	100	100
NYSE 5800	100	100	100
NYSE 5900	100	100	100
NYSE 6000	100	100	100
NYSE 6100	100	100	100
NYSE 6200	100	100	100
NYSE 6300	100	100	100
NYSE 6400	100	100	100
NYSE 6500	100	100	100
NYSE 6600	100	100	100
NYSE 6700	100	100	100
NYSE 6800	100	100	100
NYSE 6900	100	100	100
NYSE 7000	100	100	100
NYSE 7100	100	100	100
NYSE 7200	100	100	100
NYSE 7300	100	100	100
NYSE 7400	100	100	100
NYSE 7500	100	100	100
NYSE 7600	100	100	100
NYSE 7700	100	100	100
NYSE 7800	100	100	100
NYSE 7900	100	100	100
NYSE 8000	100	100	100
NYSE 8100	100	100	100
NYSE 8200	100	100	100
NYSE 8300	100	100	100
NYSE 8400	100	100	100
NYSE 8500	100	100	100
NYSE 8600	100	100	100
NYSE 8700	100	100	100
NYSE 8800	100	100	100
NYSE 8900	100	100	100
NYSE 9000	100	100	100
NYSE 9100	100	100	100
NYSE 9200	100	100	100
NYSE 9300	100	100	100
NYSE 9400	100	100	100
NYSE 9500	100	100	100
NYSE 9600	100	100	100

Asset	1972	1973	1974	1975
Exp. Equip	377	+2	20.8	8.9
Acc. Equip	57	+2	8.1	8.5
Int. Equip	510	+15
Waterfront	220	+18
Land	272	+5	151	5.5
Buildings	222	+3	82.3	3.8
Mining Prop	350	+40	7.4	2.1

* Flat interest yield.
 * Ex-dividend.

